The International Crosby Circle Presents

BING

Edited by REG BRISTO

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THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE
(Hon. Sec./Editor REG BRISTO)
presents BING, the official journal
"THE LEGEND IS ONLY JUST
BEGINNING...."

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The frontispiece opposite is an extract from notes written by the distinguished playwright, DENNIS POTTER, on his TV series, PENNIES FROM HEAVEN, which we gratefully acknowledge. (From a record sleeve).

"...I'm so glad we are carrying on; a circle such as ours fills a great need in the realms of popular music for retaining live memories of a truly great man. Its even more important now to remember Bing and some of his contemporaries as today's music gets increasingly more banal and crude....

BOB DAVIE,
Montrose, Angus.

recall from years ago a short Polish film which, with almost unbearable bitterness, showed the gaunt hope-drained faces of concentration camp prisoners staring with blank eyes at the barbed wire, which separated them from all earthly mercy: and over this, the director had placed Bing Crosby's happily bland rendering of 'You are my sunshine'. The effect was shattering, rather as though a lump of sugar on the tongue had suddenly dissolved into strychnine. And yet the contrast would have been gratuitously indecent had the tune not had its own minor charge of poignancy. The drivelling bathos of 'the lyrics' was signalling the existence of other values, other dreams: a private remonstrance echoing inside the bones of the head against a world of such vicious negations and so many sordid inhumanities. Oddly enough, therefore, neither Bing nor the song were demeaned, even by such a cruel juxtaposition as this.

Greatly reduced, and much less horribly startling, a contrast between life as we know it and this sort of music can throw up incidental shocks and insights. The emotions in the songs are so general, so easily transferable, that many people can quickly locate the particular within them: their particular. A time, a place, a person, a mood; they flood back, sometimes mockingly but often so complete as to be almost tangible. For me, born in 1935, I can 'get' the distant sound of 'the wireless' drifting up the stairs, and enter again the land which cannot be traced on any map, the lost land of childhood from which we are all, at times, in exile.

More than that, though: the complicated mediation between our present sensibilities and the dated conventions of the popular music of past decades adds many extra layers to the simple commercial dreams. We are re-writing what we hear.....

Dennis Potter, Nov. 1977

EDITORIAL

The months are passing and still it doesn't seem true, real..especially when we see items such as Bob Hope's TV testimonial, knowing that Bing will be there in magnificent clips...and yet, not there....

To our surprise we find we have reached, unheralded, No. 50 of BING in its present guise. It must be a landmark of some kind - our main hope is that some youngster is waiting in the wings ready, in due course, to take us to the No. 100 mark. For as we have been told, the legend is only just beginning...

Several items in the press have struck a sour note: love-letters to be published; Bing designated "a Chauvinistic pig"; the existence (?) of a secret 25-year love for Grace Kelly - items which have no connection with Crosbyana as we know it and as we follow it. But there was one item which stunned us, and that was the news that Bob Hope was to go ahead with the new ROAD film - with George Burns playing Bing's part. Burns is a wonderful - and venerable - comedian, and a true contemporary of Bing's - wasn't he in THE BIG BROADCAST of 1932? Hysteria is the last thing we, in our advancing years, are likely to succumb to but it does sound to us bordering on sacrilege to even contemplate such a project. The report was seen in one paper only and we trust it was an ill-founded report. It is difficult, nay impossible, to comprehend that Bob Hope would consider such a venture as a ROAD film with someone in place of his career-long friend, Bing. If he is so doing we stand amazed - and disappointed.

To lighter things: Are we a few days late? Perhaps - but its still June. But if we are, then there are extenuating circumstances. We had reached the TRADING POST sorting-out stage when the words we all dread were heard: THIS ROOM IS LOOKING SHABBY. Useless to argue it was done a year, or 18 months ago. We KNOW we will be told "its at least 3 years..." All anyone with a scrap of sense will do is - get the paint, paper and other paraphernalia and get on with it as soon as possible. That way lies a kind of peace. So, not being entirely berefect of what's good for me, that's what I did. But it causes not only a painful break in production; more importantly is causes a mind-blanking hiatus in the train of thought which is already, mentally, forming BING! So that when at last the final piece of wretched paper is hung and the paint is dry and the furniture is roughly back where it was, the continuity has been hopelessly lost and more valuable days are necessarily spent in picking up the tangled threads before the swing can be resumed. That does take into account, either, the late Spring and the bare minimum of work that also had to be expended on the garden....

Then there was the WORLD CUP.....

However, all was overcome and here is your quarterly stimulus of Crosbyana measuring up, we pray, to your ever-rising expectations.

And despite all, as you have already seen, the mini-discography has been completed and awaits your leizured and contented browsing - not to mention checking!

And a word of apology to all those who are still awaiting a reply to their letters. After reading the above, I am sure they will be full of contrition....Happy reading - and happy listening, as always, to the bountiful legacy Bing bequeathed to all of us...

LESLIE GAYLOR

Les had the privilege of spending a lot of time in Bing's presence during his last weeks....and we're delighted that, in answer to scores of members, he tells us some more of those great days: He whites -

Here we are again, as they say, waiting to read the new issue of BING and its a pleasure and a privilege for me to be able to write here, for this magazine, under the very able guidance of the Editor, does a tremendous job in binding us all together in our admiration of Bing. This was always the case, and is particularly so now that the Great master has departed this life and we can by this means share our sorrows and our thoughts. More of that later.

It gave me tremendous pleasure when Dick Pearson in the US sent me a copy of the CBS Embassy release, Volume 1 of A BING CROSBY COLLECTION as soon as it was released. With this we were blessed with 14 early tracks that so many admirers have been wanting to acquire for years. And my thanks to Priscilla Koernig, also of the US, for mailing me Volume 2 of this collection - due here in mid-June, I understand. For me to have waited that long would have been purgatory! I will, of course, buy the British version for I have always believed in supporting companies that issue and reissue Bing's records, no matter duplicates are involved tho' I appreciate that this is a sore point with many members. But, it is a fact of life and we have to live with "duplicates".

Again, there are some beautiful tracks on Vol 2 and the classic SHADOW WALTZ is available at long, long, last. And we mustn't forget the powerful voicing of Bing in I'VE GOT TO PASS YOUR HOUSE.

I cannot disguise the fact that Crosby recordings from 1933 to early 1935 cast a magical spell over me somehow...they hold me spellbound though, of course, this is not to say that Bing hasn't always cast a spell for me! All thro' his long and wondrous career. The great ballad singing amid the atmosphere of his radio shows, however, is truly magnificent.

But I was taken aback by the sleeve notes of the producer of these two A BING CROSBY COLLECTION albums. He seemed incredibly critical to me and going through the futile exercise of finding fault 40 years later! One would have thought his intention was to to ruin the sales prospects of the albums instead of the reverse. These records became "classics" immediately they were released all those years ago - and have remained so - deservedly so.

Certainly the "engineering" - it wasn't left to a producer in those days! - by which I mean the balance between the voice and the accompaniment is far better than that on a number of Bing's recordings made in these stereo days. I look forward with keen anticipation to further releases by CBS and certainly would be delighted if the unforgettable MY LOVE, I WOULD IF I COULD BUT I CAN'T - a real gem - and others like LET'S SPEND AN EVENING AT HOME and SOMEDAY WE'LL MEET AGAIN.

I know that keeping up with the amount of material becoming available is no mean matter for a lot of members - it is for me, too! - but I would put forward the suggestion that in the case of these fair-priced albums, obtaining a spare might well be an excellent policy.

Many members are still writing to me to say that I was a "lucky fella" to

have got in on those SEASONS album sessions over the three days last September and the Editor tells me that mail on this subject has been unexpectedly heavy. I knew members would like to know something of what went on behind the scenes on that memorable occasions but confined myself to a fairly objective story. Now in response to so many requests and encouraged by Editor Reg, I am happy to further enlarge on those memorable days.

Early on the first session - Monday 12 September - Bing remarked to me "I see they have listed the clubs on the back of the BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES album." He was feferring, of course, to the mention of Reg and the ICC, myself, and the American Club Crosby president, Priscilla Koernig - and he seemed pleased that this had been done. He had been given an advance copy of the sleeve notes prior to the album's release. And I also noted that on the last day of the sessions I have been writing about - the SEASONS album, Sept 14 - a motor cyclist arrived at the studio with half a dozen copies of the BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES album - and again Bing studied the sleeve notes most diligently.

And it was on this same day that Bing was telling us - with some pride - that an estimated 25,000 had turned up in the rain to see him perform at the open-air television show in Oslo just three weeks before. He conveyed to us just how heavily the downpour was by using a well-known epithet that precisely described the amount of rain descending on this loyal audience! I won't repeat it here - but it caused great mirth to those present and revealed just how perfectly natural - and human - Bing was. It was so on just one other occasion during those three days when a small annoyance cropped up and Bing swore, - quite lightly - but then looked around. He spotted a lady in the company and it never happened again.

Another thing that intrigued me was that besides doing the complete 'takes' of the various songs recorded Bing was liable to sing short phrases, odd lines, almost to himself it seemed. But on every occasion Ken Barnes exclaimed quickly to the engineers, Steve Taylor and Andrew Clark: "Save that, save that!" Meaning on no account erase from the tapes, which were always running, these snippets.

When this initial session was concluded, Bing sat chatting with us for half an hour or so and it was then that Ken Barnes brought up the concept of the television show that he had obtained the necessary backing for. At the time both Fred Astaire and Twiggy had shewn considerable interest - as indeed had Frankie Laine. Ken had briefly mentioned his ideas to Bing on a previous occasion and suggested that he, Bing, might take part. Ken took the opportunity to hand Bing a script of his ideas which Bing put into his case and promised to read as soon as possible.

It is my personal thought that Bing would definitely have accepted a part - no question about it. There were three lovely songs for Bing, written by Ken Barnes and Pete Moore, plus an acting part and in addition Bing would have been required to do the necessary narration for the show. It was what might be considered a 'plum' role for Bing, especially as the TV people concerned had expressed the opinion that he was the ONLY one fitted to do the narration. And as Kathryn, when speaking on the phone to Ken Barnes a few days later, remarked "I see you have written a television show" it was obvious that the scripts were being keenly looked at by the Crosbys. Ken, too, was certain that Bing would have agreed to take part.

BING DID TWO 'TAKES' OF "AUTUMN IN NEW YORK" and came and sat beside me to hear the playback. It sounded so fine I turned to Bing and said: "That was a really fine performance, Bing." Bing looked at me and said: "Why, thank you Leslie...." Listening to that track,

as I do so often, hearing those magnificent strings in a splendid arrangement, and Bing's voice so melodious, so powerful I'm not ashamed to admit that, remembering the little incident and Bing's complete modesty, it brings me close to tears now. It was a memorable experience. I must admit that lovely string sounds especially capture me absolutely. So with Bing's voice added I'm tied for life to that wonderful track.

> Another point that came up on the Wednesday session was when Bing told us that there was to be a meeting to decide what material should be used at the Palladium and elsewhere. A format had to be drawn up, said Bing.

It seemed Bing was toying with the idea of using songs from the BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES and the SEASONS albums. "I'd like to hear the SEPTEMBER SONG recording Ken," went on Bing. Right, said Ken Barnes, sit right there and we'll play it thro'. We were in the control room where the magnificent twelve-speaker system was situated. I might add that they have tremendous volume all the time - just as I like it, incidentally - comparable say to a large brass band in a carnival procession!

> But Bing wouldn't accept this offer of Ken's to hear the track in the control room. Instead he headed for a small studio nearby, the one in fact where the song SEASONS was recorded and where there was a small playback single-speaker unit. "Too many dynamics out there," Bing said, "I'm going to hear it in here as though I was listening to a 78." And I went in with him and kept dead quiet as Bing listened intently as SEPTEMBER SONG was played back.

You may be interested to know that apart from all the sophisticated recording gear the engineer put several cassette tapes in his recorder over the three days and took down just about everything that was done, said, or sung! He made a lovely job on all 'takes', having Bing's voice well forward as on all the ballads on the SEASONS album. Bing was recorded in the same fashion, for example, as on JUNE IS BUSTIN' OUT ALL OVER, ON THE VERY FIRST DAY OF THE YEAR, and SLEIGH RIDE but you'll note on the issued album that his voice was taken back, as it were, and the accompaniment brought forward. Personally, I preferred the original recordings Steve Taylor made where there was considerably more of Bing's voice.

But these are called "rough mixes" Ken Barnes told me.

I'm truly delighted at the success and the excellent reaction to this SEASONS album. It has met with a wonderful response from almost everyone. And I've just opened a letter from a member in the States who says it is his favourite album of ALL Bing's - and that JUNE IS BUSTIN OUT the top track. A short while back I had a letter from an Australian saying much the same about the album generally - but that JUNE was his least-liked track! Ah well....

Among the hundreds of letters I received on Bing's death, one came from a lady in southern England. Some 13 years after her late mother's passing she had bucked up the courage to open one of her private books in which there were many verses her mother had written. She thought the following seemed to be fitting to Bing so aptly:

> Silent the music and dumb the tuneful tongue,
> That sang on earth his Great Redeemer's praise,
> But now in Heaven he tunes a nobler song,
> In more exhalted, more melodious lays.

And now, perhaps, I may touch on a little matter that could well be challenged - and rightly so. In the last issue of BING the man I always think of as our "anchor-man" - Reg Bristo no less - described me as the universally-accepted No. 1 Bing fan.

Well, I know of some real tip-top "Crosbyites" throughout the world whom I know tower above me with their massive collections of recordings. They are the No. 1's. But I have been very pleased at the reaction of numerous people who have congratulated me on playing some part in Bing's career which helped to bring about his increased - and so successful - activity of later years. Such people have said they were glad that I didn't just remain a collector of records - for which I thank them.

(Editor: Leslie's modesty is commendable - and precisely what I expected as his reaction when I so described him. The size of a record collection is certainly a criterion of devotion; but not the sole one. And indeed, the size of a collection is not necessarily a criterion as to that person's admiration for Bing. I too know of great "Crosby men" (and women!) who can be classed among the No. 1's - if we have to do that! I know the men whose immense efforts for Bing and Crosbyana are set down in books and discographies for posterity and for the pleasure of others. They have done a tremendous job for which we are all thankful. Furthermore, I'm proud to call them my friends. But I remain of the opinion that the way Leslie has lived (and slept) Bing for so many years, dropping everything and hurrying from his home in the Isle of Wight to London on even the possibility that Bing was there....the way he has had hundreds of "request" records played over the air, the thousands of letters he has written, provided local radio stations with albums, and scores of other things eminently qualifies him for the No. 1 tag. And it is my opinion that none of those other collecting and researching giants begrudge him the title. Why, thoughtall these great activities have been a labour of love for Leslie, Bing himself recognised that Leslie was spending a good deal of money on his hobby and in the kindest way took various opportunities to reimburse Les for his considerable outlay. This set Leslie back at first - but now he has some of Bing's cheques, cancelled, but beautifully framed. I don't know really whether or not I should have mentioned this for in no sense was Les a "paid agent" or anything resembling that - Bing just recognised Leslie's considerable efforts.)

Another matter I can clear up (continues Leslie Gaylor): Many people have asked me to clear up the mystery of the letters that Bing sent to me and Jas. Dineen and one or two others last August saying that he was calling off his English tour as well as the Palladium concerts. These letters were identical and dated August 15, 1977. Bing was indeed very thoughtful in sending us those letters and it did seem amazing, to say the least, that we knew of these proposed cancellations even before the promotors of the concerts! I eventually found out what lay behind it all, through the good offices of Leslie Wilson one of our US members.

He sent me a press interview that Kathryn Crosby gave to the NATIONAL ENQUIRER after Bing's death. Kathryn had gone east to perform in a play with Mary Frances and Bing telephoned her to say that he had decided to cancel the Palladium engagement and indeed all his English shows. Will explain later, he told Kathryn.

Bing had told his agent of his decision but Kathryn phoned the agent to say DON'T CANCEL THE BRITISH TOUR, wait a few days - BUT DON'T TELL BING!

Hence the letters we received from Bing informing us of his changed plans.

His agent did keep quiet until such times as the press, radio, and TV announced matters over here and telex messages and phone calls across the Atlantic led to a very, very hectic week-end.

On August 16, the day after Bing had sent his letters to use here in Britain he carried out a scheduled concert at the Concord Pavilion in California. As we know, that proved a tremendous success. And much more importantly, it convinced Bing that he could indeed still perform on stage after his sensational fall from the stage in Pasadena. Hence, he was persuaded to change his mind. Everyone knows the rest.

Kathryn has been reported as saying some rather odd things in recent months but of what thing the lady has said we can be happy to concur:

HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN CELEBRATE 51 YEARS OF SHOW BUSINESS AND STILL BE LOVED AND ADORED AND HAVE SUCH TREMENDOUS SUCCESS?

More and more we realise what a really great man Bing Crosby was. I can see him now, at the CBS studios in London during a break in recording, just two or three feet away from me, having an enjoyable telephone talk with Sean Connery and telling him that he would be going to Spain for some golf some time after October 10....he was a happy man right to the very end and I know he was thrilled all over again at the wonderful reception he had received in Britain from his "loyalest fans", as well as the people in other countries including, naturally, his beloved America.

And during those few days both Ken Barnes and I really began to discover what pressures Bing was under most of the time. We like to think we know all about Bing - but its impossible. The tremendous pressures he was under make the mind boggle. For instance, while we were at CBS some German TV executives came to meet Bing and to ask him to do a TV show for them - in Germany, with Caterina Valente as one of his guests. He was asked - as John Bignell also heard - to do a GOOD OLD DAYS programme for the BBC - what an item THAT would have been for British viewers. Then there was the question of Australia, certainly on Bing's mind.

I can assure Australian readers, tho' there's precious little consolation now for them in knowing, that Bing was definitely going to visit them. He had asked Ted Rogers if he was free to go, in fact. Ted certainly was. And Ted's scriptwriter, Wally Malston, was also going along, too. It is true that I asked Bing at CBS if he would be going to Australia as his many great fans there were most anxious to see him. On that occasion Bing said: "No, I won't be going there...its too far, I'm afraid." But clearly he thought things over and had virtually made up his mind that he would go. And I'm certain that my remarks to him about his great admirers Down Under had had an influence. And Ted Rogers has since revealed he was virtually "booked" to go on an Australian tour - and in this connection, readers will have noticed that Ted Rogers, having landed a big engagement in America, is proclaiming that it was all due to Bing and the break he had touring with him.

However, as I say, its small consolation now but perhaps it helps to know that Bing had decided he would go there after all.....

My warmest best wishes to all members until the next time.

Editor: Another fascinating glimpse of the behind-the-scenes Bing by Leslie. And how right he is about the pressures on Bing - things requiring a decision, all the time. Often a weighty decision too. I recall a year or two before

when a few of us had the great privilege of being in the Bond St, studios of Chappells when Bing was recording there - and of how the newspapermen, photographers, waited on him at every break. How he was asked to come to the telephone for the BBC., or ITV, asking for interviews, appearances, would he consider this, or that?.. Its something to think about, this pressure of constantly having to make decisions. Yet, as is well known, Bing had long learned to take it in his stride - and go on singing and delighting millions. Truly a magnificent character.

Leslie's comments on the off-beat sleeve comments on the CBS Volume 1 album are understandable - but there is more on the subject of these unusual notes in KEEPING TRACK. And certainly on the more acceptable contents of the album!

WHEN THE NEXT ISSUE OF "BING" APPEARS - IN SEPTEMBER - IT WILL BE DANGEROUSLY CLOSE TO THE ANNUAL DINNER/MEETING IN LEEDS WHICH THIS YEAR WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 17. MICHAEL CRAMPTON, THE ORGANISER OF THIS LOOKED-FORWARD-TO EVENT, TELLS ME HE HAS HAD NO OBJECTIONS TO THIS DATE AND IS GOING AHEAD WITH THE ARRANGE MENTS. WE HOPE TO CATCH BETTER WEATHER WITH THIS EARLIER DATE.

MICHAEL'S ADDRESS: 19 CARRHOLM CRESCENT, CHAPEL ALLERTON, LEEDS, LS7 2NL, WEST YORKS. LET HIM KNOW IN PLENTY OF TIME THAT YOU WILL BE ATTENDING. INDICATIONS ARE THAT THERE WILL BE A RECORD ATTENDANCE THIS YEAR AND MUCH WILL NEED TO BE DONE. BY LETTING MICHAEL KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE YOU WILL GREATLY EASE THE SITUATION.

It has been no mean task to try and keep pace with all that has appeared about Bing, but thanks to readers writing in, we can cover some of the ground.

WOMAN'S WEEKLY published extensive extracts from THE ONE AND ONLY BING by Bob Thomas, complete with many photographs. A BING CROSBY ALBUM "The legacy he left behind" is a Dell Special publication, 1.25 dollars or 75p - Dell Distributing Inc., 1 Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, New York 10017, USA has come our way...

From the same company is BING CROSBY: A PICTORIAL TRIBITE and TEXT, also 1.25 dollars of 75p. Others we have heard about - including special records - we'd rather not deal with here for it is far from clear that (a) they are still available, or (b) ever were to British members. Certainly all kinds of books and magazines have been rushed out to "cash in" - some of them so poor and inaccurate that they have actually been withdrawn.

".....there was a whole crowd of us waiting at the box-office, and pleading with the manager to let us in - to stand. But he said there were 5,000 people in there and it was more than he dare do, especially as the Fire Officer was making a special visit during the performance...but we didn't go away. We sat around in the foyer, discussing Bing, catching some of the programme when the doors were fleetingly opened....At the time, while disappointed, I didn't feel too badly about it as I had seen Bing the previous week at the Palladium. But of course, if I'd known what was to follow we might have stormed the place! Do you think we could persuade ITV to screen again their tribute to Bing the day after his death? I'm sure a lot of people missed it, torn between that and the BBC, and though I saw it, I was in such a daze I can't really recall it very well."

RITA STROMMINGERS (Haywards Heath)

Editor: This was the "Pasadena" show - perhaps if members bombard ITV with requests...trouble is, ITV is so regionalised.

KEELING TRACK

BERT BISHOP takes us through the new records that are coming to hand in his own individual style - - - - - - - - - -

Whilst there have been some rather interesting releases since the March issue of BING, the situation here at home in the United Kingdom has proved to be very disappointing. Practically all the new records listed hereunder are overseas issues. However, we do have the firm promise of a June release for Volume 2 of the CBS albums, A BING CROSBY COLLECTION. This album was released in the US as a 2-LP set - so the fortunate afficionados on the leeward side of the Atlantic have the complete set of twenty-eight 'never before on LP' titles already in their collection.

One or two titles have, in fact, appeared on legitimate LPs but as most of them have previously been issued on 'bootleg labels' only, Michael Brooks the producer, is justified in his sub-title. But what of his SLEEVE NOTES?

There may be some purchasers of this collection who take exception to his astringent comments but, speaking personally, I applaud his forthright comments and tart witticisms, most of which are directed at the words and the music - occasionally the orchestra or arrangement - never really at Bing.

I am particularly pleased that a different 'take' of STARLIGHT was used for Volume 1 as it is a pleasant song which, on the originally released 78, was spoilt by an uncharacteristic croak in Bing's voice. Here we have a very satisfying 'take'-C. Most of the tracks have responded to studio treatment very well and are superior to anything we've had before or currently, including the excellent Sunbeam LPs, DISTINCTIVELY BING (reviewed in March BING). This contradicts Ken Crossland's viewpoint, and possibly others, who believe the Sunbeams to be 'at least as good as the recent CBS issues'. Whether you agree with Ken is something you'll have to decide for yourselves but Ken has thoughtfully provided a 'take' analysis cross-referencing of the CBS, Sunbeam, and the Jazum LPs thus giving you an "at-a-glance" summary of what these albums contain. (see at the end of KEELING TRACK).

The most interesting comments on the CBS collection came from Herb Bootman of San Diego, USA and I take great pleasure in introducing them at this point; more than that, Herb has got an "explanation" of his somewhat off-beat, or off-putting (according to your tastes!) notes:

HAIL, MICHAEL BROOKS

by HERB BOOTMAN

Maybe I'm a barefoot pilgrim, but where has this guy been? Let's back up and start again. Al Sutton phoned me from Sacramento on March 27 and informed me that Columbia records had just issued (rather reissued) two volumes of old Brunswick tracks with a sprinkling of Columbia and Okeh. Fine! I've been waiting and anticipating. In fact, the Babel of reissues is well under way. Let's face it, fellow Crosby collectors, we are in for a bewildering mass of reissues, cross-reissues, etc. until -ENOUGH! Only the most rabid of label worshippers will survive until the last buck is milked. Which brings up another point - how many old radio shows at 5.00 dollars a copy can you absorb?

Back to the two Columbias (35093 and 35094) - what makes these exceptional in my estimation is that they contain the final Brunswick track not previously issued on micro-groove. My copy is a battered 78 dredged

from a dusty stack in a Salvation Army Store in Kansas City about 1937. The track itself is singularly undistinguished - YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL TONIGHT MY DEAR, with Guy Lombardo and his Ricky-Tick Canadians. Now the ring is closed - I can relax. Every Brunswick track is on micro-groove, with a special nod to a certain Australian and to Ken Gray of Chicago - and of the ICC. Let it be noted that Bing in his final years displayed exceptional animosity to certain collectors who undertook to "pirate" his recordings almost a half century old.

But back to the man who produced and annotated these two Columbia volumes, Michael Brooks. Columbia gave him a free hand to write the jacket and envelope notes and he sure did a job. He did an extraordinary thing. The whole back of the jacket wasn't enough - he went right on to the inner envelope, both sides. Now, here's a man - an Americanised Limey yet, who is alternately harsh and gentle, thoroughly versed in what he speaks,who puts on pyrotechnics like I've never seen on a record jacket.

First of all, his choice of tracks - to me, a jaded but dogged Crosby hound, he showed an awareness of what's been done to death and what hasn't. No argument on his choices. Let's just hope there'll be more. And he's so right, "despite the warts, 1931-34 saw the best work of his career." Amen!

As to what he says, this will be argued for some time to come. Anyone who would ridicule LITTLE DUTCH MILL would have to be against apple pie, motherhood and Chevy, and the visions he conjures up with RIDIN' AROUND IN THE RAIN and WHAT DO I CARE IT'S HOME are too much. But wait, the derision is only against the lyrics. And then Brooks proceeds on to the inner envelope with his discourse. Here he reveals an unfortunate but familiar, brief, abrasive encounter with Bing. Here is a case where I can clearly understand and appreciate the feelings of both men - no hero, no villain. The final sentence, "I and millions of others loved and bless him for the legacy he left behind."

Lastly, the price on these two gem LP's is definitely right - 2.99 dollars each at my local outlet. Considering they are mostly "alternate takes never released on LP" they are an eminent bargain. I wish I understood the logic of LP pricing. I would have paid several times the price.

Editor: (interpolating, sorry!) A nice piece by Herb which gives me the opportunity to slip in the time-honoured cliche about the views of contributors not necessarily being those of the Editor! But more of that later on. I don't think Herb's Americanese needs any interpretation - except possibly "Chevy" and I believe this must refer to the Chevrolet motor car that all Americans own sooner or later! And now, with no further ado, we'll go on to what Herb Bootman provoked from Michael Brooks himself - quite a scoop for BING! Here it is - - - - - - - -

MICHAEL BROOKS (Producer COLUMBIA SPECIAL PRODUCTS) :

Dear Mr. Bootman,

I was overwhelmed to receive your very generous tribute. Overwhelmed and, being a Limey, albeit an Americanised one, rather embarrassed.

I've always been an admirer of Bing Crosby, as he and the Boswell Sisters first turned me on to jazz via my father's 78 record collection. I've been a producer for six years; but before then, I used to get enraged at the slipshod way most reissues were put together - the same old cuts

used over and over again obviously programmed by people too lazy and ignorant to do a little digging, so that you had to buy a whole LP in order to get two cuts you needed.

I note your remarks about YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL TONIGHT being the last Crosby note on micro-groove. I know we sold the two records as never before being released on LP; but for obvious reasons, we have to ignore bootleg contributions. Anyway, there are so many I certainly can't keep track of them. I'm not too happy about the sound quality, either; but I did go to a lot of trouble, using American, British and Japanese issues to try and find the cleanest copies. I guess the original Depression plating was skimpy, at best, while the metal parts that still exist have deteriorated almost beyond use and no one here cares about trying to restore them.

Hopefully the albums will sell well enough for me to put out the few remaining sides that have never (officially) come out on micro-groove.

> A WORD ABOUT MY NOTES. I TRIED TO AVOID THE MINDLESS ADULATION WE GIVE TO OUR NATIONAL HEROES. THE INTERVIEW INCIDENT WAS PAINFUL TO ME, BUT IT MADE ME MORE AWARE OF THE AWFUL PRESSURES PLACED ON MEN IN THE PUBLIC EYE. MY OPINIONS OF HIM AS AN ARTIST AND A MAN HAVE NOT CHANGED AND ALTHOUGH SOME PEOPLE HAVE CRITICISED MY NOTES, IT WAS NOT MY INTENTION TO TAKE CHEAP POT-SHOTS AT HIM WHEN HE COULDN'T REPLY. I THINK HIS REPUTATION IS SECURE ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND ANY NEGATIVE FEELINGS I MIGHT HAVE INADVERTENTLY EXPRESSED.

Editor: There should now be a pause, perhaps a pregnant one, while the above is digested, and possibly rejected - but first, a sincere apology to BERT BISHOP for mangling in an unexpected manner his KEEPING TRACK! But, he "introduced" Herb Bootman and thereby Michael Brooks! Having achieved the pause, let's proceed to consider a few salient facts.

First, we are all delighted, even excited, that Columbia, or CBS, have issued these two albums (Yes, we're still awaiting the second, I know, but we're gonna get it..) We have all, as we never tire of saying, waited aeons for these lovely tracks. And surely, in those circumstances, the sub-title of the albums NEVER BEFORE ON LP is a crushing indictment of Columbia?

Their track-record of LP reissues of Bing of the material they held, that is, before Bing's marathon contract with Decca/Jack Kapp, is not to put too fine a point on it, ABYSMAL. Look at the LPography and see the Columbian contribution of classic Crosby material. Dare oneventure the opinion that it took Bing's death to galvanise them into this action? I think we can venture such an opinion. Decca, on the other hand, with much more material to hand admittedly, have done the Crosby cause and its fans considerably more handsomely. And let's not forget it. This does not reflect too much on Mr. Brooks as he has been a producer for only six years; but even that was sufficiently long to have shewn interest in Crosby recordings - before his death.

And the myth of "archives" is thoroughly exploded once again. CBS didn't have the "masters" as we have long happily believed. If they did, Michael Brooks tells us they were shamefully neglected - and no-one "here" cares. Once again, true collectors had to be called upon for "clean" copies. And here it might be appropriate to put in a

redeeming, kind, word for the bootleggers, privateers, pirates, hi-jackers or whoever they are who issue the "unofficial" albums that CBS, in true dog-in-the-manger fashion would NOT issue. Until Bing died. So, who now is after the "fast buck" and milking the market? I must repeat, these remarks in no way alter the opinion that these are wonderful albums to have. Belatedly. Unnecessarily belatedly.

As regards the new-approach sleeve/envelope notes, we have not, of course, yet seen them all. And to date, except for those who have the double US issue, we do not yet know of the abrasive interview with Bing. In fact, as this is written, we have only the odd notes to be seen on Volume 1 of the CBS. It will be generally agreed that sleeve notes have tended to get a same-ness, simply because (as we will also generally agree) it takes an awful effort to find something NEW to say about Bing and his recordings. So a new-approach should be viewed with sympathy and interest.

My own personal feelings (not necessarily those of contributors!) is that Michael Brooks's misfired. Now if, IF, they were aimed at the - what was it Herb said "...a jaded but dogged Crosby hound" - that's it! If they were to be read only by such admirers they may have been more acceptable. People who, thoroughly sophisticated in their Crosbyana, understand his cryptic, oblique and sometimes downright critical expressions, all might have been fair enough. But they are not.

What of the people who have become aware of Bing recordings, with increasing wonderment, SINCE the earliest days? What of the people who have just had their interest kindled? And they read these somewhat off-putting notes? Remember we, or they, who are inclined to be tolerant, even praising of Michael Brooks's writings, long know these records themselves. And in truth, it wouldn't matter WHAT he said about the tracks. We know them. We need no-one to even attempt to turn us off them.

And another vital point for me is that I don't even agree with what he hears! For example, I FOUND YOU. If we hadn't long known - and new people do NOT - that Bing was in the recording studio while Helen Crawford played the organ in the Paramount Theatre, I defy ANYONE to have discovered that from the recording. There's just no way of telling that sort of thing. And you know, it doesn't sound "muffled" to me. As for SUMMER COMING ON, ROSE OF MANDALAY - don't these new-look writers ever remember that songwriters, even in the early 30's, were often attracted by that delicious commodity, whimsy?

As for his remark that "if you listen closely you can still hear the laughter in his (Bing's) voice come through apropos the rejected take when Bing laughed his head off. I defy anyone to listen to this a hundred times and - honestly - detect any sign of laughter in Bing's singing. I wouldn't object if there was, but - there is not. The notes are, therefore, in my opinion, largely invalid.

Far better if the sleeve notes had attempted to re-create some of the tremendous excitement of those days - as Harry Tobias so easily did in the last issue of BING with his story of working with Bing and Harry Barris. Some of the excitement that was generated as this most unusual, virile, new-sound, voice was pouring out these intriguing records. Not attempt to apologise for them (almost) with a sophistication which rings decidedly hollow. Michael Brooks is an Americanised Limey, he says. There are still scores, if not hundreds, of unAmericanised Limeys who could have come much closer to doing Bing's 1928-32 records justice than he has managed to do. And before finishing, Guy Lombardo's Ricky-tick Canadians, says Herb Bootman! Careful buddy (to use the vernacular, you are speaking of the band Louis Armstrong (and I!) loved.....

AND NOW, WITH A FURTHER APOLOGY, we return to BERT BISHOP:

For the benefit of collectors outside of the USA the catalogue nos of the US LPs are Columbia 35093 and Columbia 35094. The titles on Vol 2 (s l as will be released here in June) are as opposite:

For posterity and collectors who have not yet purchased Volume 1, CBS Embassy 31618 (UK) A BING CROSBY COLLECTION, the content is again presented for publication bearing in mind that Editor Reg mislaid that part of my 'copy' for the last issue, tsk tsk. Anyone would have thought I'd written a S+N+T+A LP review! (The man's a sadist, Editor)

These too, are shewn opposite.

In view of what has gone before from Herb Bootman, Michael Brooks not to mention the Editor, we can now leave you to enjoy these two albums (Volume 2 should come out as far as we can judge at the same time as this issue of BING. You can also leave you to mull over the notes contained in the albums.

Suffice to sum up by saying these are indeed classic Crosby tracks from a very important phase of his long and lustrous career.

COLUMBIA 35094:

1. I'll Follow you.
2. Try a little tenderness.
3. You're Getting to be a Habit with me
4. Young and healthy
5. You're Beautiful tonight, my dear
6. What do I care, its home
7. You've got me crying again

1. I've got to pass your house
2. Shadow waltz
3. I've got to sing a torch song
4. Little Dutch Mill
5. Shadows of love
6. Ridin' around in the rain
7. Give me a heart to sing to.

COLUMBIA 35093 (US) (UK CBS EMBASSY 31618)

1. Anyone can see with half an eye
   I'm crazy over you
2. Rose of Mandalay
3. Waiting at the end of the road.
4. I found you -A
5. Starlight, help me find the one I love -C
6. Love, you funny thing

1. Shadows on the window
2. You're still in my heart
3. Happy-go-lucky you and broken-hearted me
4. Lazy Day
5. With Summer coming on (I'm still without a sweetheart)
6. Love me tonight
7. We're a couple of soldiers

"THREE GIANTS: BING CROSBY, MAURICE CHEVALIER, GROUCHO MARX de Baron 47 (Amalgamated)

I'm ridin' high; Without a song; Its a good day; In the cool, cool, cool, of the evening; Alexanders ragtime band; Once in love with Amy; Ida; Gigi; Charmaine; Candy; Chiquita; Lucille; Louise; Mexicali Rose; Mimi; If You knew Susie; Evelina; Linda; Count your blessings; Margie; Rosie; Thank Heaven for little girls; Sing a little song; Life is just a bowl of cherries; Pigalle; Mademoiselle de Paris; Alouette; The second time around; What do you think of me?; Too marvellous for words; I wish I was in love again; The Dodgers song; Is it a sin?; Lydia, the tattoo'd lady; Feudin' and fussin'; I'll close my eyes.

Two distinct sides (record on left) featuring Bing, principally. Firstly, with Maurice Chevalier from a TV show - and in very good fidelity and practically all singing with Bing in good form matching girl for girl in a continuous medley. The second side features a Philco Radio Show time - and not a particularly distinguished one unless the Groucho humour appeals to you. Bing has a couple of good solo spots, closing with the Billy Reid-Buddy Kaye popular song of 1946 I'LL CLOSE MY EYES. This is one of the better 'pirate' LPs. Not however, freely available in this country.

'SCRAPBOOK OF 1977'
BBC REC 303 UK STEREO
£2.35p.

Basically a Jubilee content, though featuring several other events including a tribute to Bing by way of an excerpt of the Decca recording of THERE'S NOTHING THAT I HAVEN'T SUNG ABOUT. For Bing content collectors only.

BING CROSBY CLASSICS VOL 1
Capitol SM 11736 US

As the next four LPs will illustrate, there is a very topsy-turvy way of thinking among the titlers of some current releases. This particular album is a slightly truncated reissue of Warner Brothers WM 4021 "JOIN BING AND SING ALONG - 33 GREAT SONGS", details of which may be found in The Bing Crosby LP-ography, page 151. This, together with the next couple of US Capitol releases, is a fairly well-sought after deleted collection so it will be welcomed by the 'newer fellas'. But, to call them Crosby CLASSICS, and thus cause much confusion by using titles already in more genuine use on some great Bing 1930 originals, shows extraordinary lack of imagination and knowledge of the subject.

BING CROSBY CLASSICS
VOL 2 Capitol SM 11737
US

BING CROSBY CLASSICS
VOL 3 Capitol SM 11738
US

Reference to pages 151 and 152 of The Bing Crosby LPography will reveal that these two LPs originally, and properly, were released under the titles of '101 GANG SONGS' Part 1 and Part II, with similar 'singalong' type titles for overseas releases. Whilst these albums are a break away from the style of singing for which Bing is, was and will always be renowned, they are, nonetheless, very listenable records for those times when our attention may be required in other directions - at parties for example. Needless to say Bing turns in some excellent performances on these tracks and it may well be that he sings his lowest note on record with ASLEEP IN THE DEEP. Readers will forgive our not setting out the 120 or so Bing titles here - but it is hoped that you all have, or will purchase, the LP-ography! Note, so far these are US releases.

SINGALONG WITH BING
Pickwick SHM948
UK Stereo £1.15p

DING DONG THE WITCH IS DEAD
CHIM, CHIM CHEREE
LOVE IS BLUE
WHAT'S MORE AMERICAN?
(I CALL YOU) SUNSHINE
THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE

HIGH HOPES
TALK TO THE ANIMALS
PUFF(THE MAGIC DRAGON)
MY FRIEND, THE DOCTOR
UP, UP AND AWAY

When first released in 1968 this LP was entitled THOROUGHLY MODERN BING, with the full US version have 12 titles (WHERE THE RAINBOW ENDS was omitted from the UK release then, too). In a further mastrer-stroke of miss-titling Pickwick, understandably I suppose, cash in on the current Crosby market.

I suppose it IS possible to sing along with Bing - tho' UP AND AWAY hardly lends itself to the category - and to that end the song lyrics are printed on the rear of the sleeve. A small insert picture of Bing heads an undistinguished tribute to him. The front sleeve is a mess! But for £1.15p it is possible to overlook the sleeve and title altogether! Readers will know that this album is freely - very freely - available

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BING/HARRY LILLIS CROSBY
Columbia P14369 US

Well now, here's some GENUINE Crosby classics! Practically every song has survived to become a 'standard', and every one of 'em beautifully sung by Bing. If you're looking for reissues of real

vintage Bing, or still trying to catch up on the umpteenth time around, this is the LP for you! Nice packaging, too. A US issue not freely available, but can be obtained - see advts. in this issue and the footnote below. The titles of these "classics":

I'VE GOT THE WORLD ON A STRONG
DID YOU EVER SEE A DREAM WALKING?
S'POSING
YOU BROUGHT A NEW KIND OF LOVE TO ME
PLEASE
LET'S PUT OUT THE LIGHTS & GO TO SLEEP
LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR
LIVIN' IN THE SUNLIGHT...
I'LL GET BY
SOME OF THESE DAYS
MY KINDA LOVE
HOW DEEP IS THE OCEAN?
THE LAST ROUND-UP
AFTER YOU'VE GONE

BING CROSBY'S CHRISTMAS CLASSICS Capitol SM 11732 US.

Another Warner Brothers reissue, this time of WM 8136 (UK) - I WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS, but with PAT-A-PAN and WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR SHEEP omitted. Full title content on p. 153 of the LPography. Sleeve graphics show a close-up of a piano with sheet music of the contents set upon it. One carries a photo of Bing. In the background, just to set the season, are Christmas parcels decked with holly. In view of the Brunswich album some may consider this another misnomer of a title! But is IS a good album.

HAPPY HOLIDAY WITH FRANK & BING Collectors' Gold LP596: Recotapes Enterprises Inc., 175, 5th Avenue, New York City, 10010, USA.

Previously released as A WARM AND WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS EVE WITH BING AND FRANK on Ho Ho Ho (Amalgamated) 1088 (US) and listed on page 115 of the LPography. Side one is a Frank Sinatra TV show on which Bing guests (circa 1956) and Side 2 is the Chesterfield Show for 20th Dec 1950 on which Dixie Lee Crosby and the four Crosby sons guested. Nicely-packaged with photo's of Bing and Frank in a Christmassy setting.

CROSBY CLASSICS Columbia Special Products P 13397 US.

This is about the seventh international version of a very popular album - and still retaining its original title! A new-to-me photograph of Bing adorns the front sleeve. Taken around the mid-60's it shows him in a posed studio shot at a mike - roses all around - and wearing a mauve suit and a pale yellow shirt.

Titles are:

DID YOU EVER SEE A DREAM WALKING?
TEMPTATION
SWEET GEORGIA BROWN
I'VE GOT THE WORLD ON A STRING
PLEASE
DOWN THE OLD OX ROAD
I DON'T STAND A GHOST OF A CHANCE
MY HONEY'S LOVIN' ARMS
HOW DEEP IS THE OCEAN?
ST. LOUIS BLUES

THAT CHRISTMAS FEELING MCA 15019 US

Originally released by US Decca under the same title on DL 8781 (page 102 of the LPography) and in Britain in 1976 on MFP 50314 as CHRISTMAS IS A'COMIN - on which UK label it is still available.

MERRY CHRISTMAS MCA 15024 US

Yet another Christmas reissue, currently available in the UK as WHITE CHRISTMAS MCF 2568. Content is listed in the LPography on page 81 where the original Brunswick LAT 8556 release is detailed and mentioned above in CHRISTMAS CLASSICS. Even the sleeve this time is identical.

THE WORLD IN SOUND
Associated Press 1977 AP 1977 US

Another 1977 round-up of news and events only this time a Stateside LP. The narrator is Tom Martin. Bing content last just one minute and constitutes a brief mention of his death by introducing the oft times asked question: "What is your favourite song?" to which Bing is heard to reply: 'It should be WHITE CHRISTMAS, for the sales, but I must confess my sentimental favourite is I SURRENDER, DEAR. This is followed by a few bars of the 1939 version of that song.

(Editor: Those questions always seemed to get Bing perplexed - but for the record (?) he has stated many times that MY ISLE OF GOLDEN DREAMS is his favourite record as regards his own performance ('I got some good tones on that...') Bing also once declared that the greatest song was STARDUST, not meaning his own performance of it - necessarily. And now we have this final utterance for I SURRENDER, DEAR - and a very understandable choice, too. It is a great song and did great things for Bing and has stood the test of time - like all fine songs.)

THE UNFORGETTABLE HITS OF THE 40's & 50's Decca R 214291 US - 2 LP Stereo

Two LPs in one sleeve, the Bing content being YES INDEED, WHITE CHRISTMAS and WHIFFENPOOF SONG. A juke-box picture on the sleeve is indicative of the era for this re-hash of hit records from those years.

ECHOES OF THE 'THIRTIES Columbia Special Products P5L4320; 5-LP Boxed Set. (Seventy immortal performances from the Golden Age of Popular Music and Jazz.

Bing is confined to just one track: LINGER A LITTLE LONGER

THE WIT AND WONDER OF JUDY GARLAND DRG SL5179 DRG Recs. Inc., 200, West 57th Str., New York NY 10019, USA

Side 1 has Bing and Judy duetting PEOPLE WILL SAY WE'RE IN LOVE taken from a live G.I. Command Performance.

CONVERSATIONS IN HOLLYWOOD Citadel CT 6029 US.

Interviews by Tony Thomas with Bing and Jack Benny...which is all the information available at the time of compiling these columns.

BING CROSBY - LIVE AT THE LONDON PALLADIUM United Artists US 5C138 89550/1 2-LP Stereo Dutch

Being the direct equivalent of the K-Tel issues of the 1976 concerts.

WHITE CHRISTMAS COPS 1011 Stereo Belgian

For details see MCA 15024 above.

HOLLYWOOD STORY Mr. Pickwick MPD 257 Stereo, France. Pickwick France, 14, Rue de Clichy 75009,Paris

A new label - nothing to do with UK Pickwick - that features Judy Garland, Fred Astaire, Marlene Dietrich, Bing and others, with just one track again for Bing - STRAIGHT FROM THE SHOULDER.

EVERY ARTIST HAS A SONG Adam VIII Ltd A 8017 3-LP set (Forty Great Artists - Forty Great Songs)

These 3 LPs are housed in a double folder; a sleeve which pictures each of the 40 artists on the front face. Only one song each for them and Bing's is HERE THE BLUE OF THE NIGHT MEETS THE GOLD OF THE DAY (1931 version)

POPULAR CHRISTMAS CLASSICS Capitol SL 8100 US (Firestone Promotion)

The perennial DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR? is Bing's contribution to this Capitol Special Markets label album of Yuletide favourites by different artists. Mentioning 'Special Markets' reminds me that the Kraft company has issued a special demi-centennial LP, which prominently features Bing. The only problem is th t the LP is not for commercial release, being pressed for Kraft personnel only. Which clearly makes it quite something of a collector's item!

A TRIBUTE TO BING CROSBY EMB 10389 and EMB 10390; Cassettes TC-EMB 10389/90.

These two LPs and their corresponding cassettes are the Australian issue of the 4-LP set that was released in the States and Japan as BING CROSBY & FRIENDS. Previously reviewed in BING and, apart from one side of Longines titles, comprising excerpts from many of Bing's radio shows. Good listening and good value.

TO RUSSIA WITH JAZZ NYJO 501. UK Stereo 2-LP.

These columns close this quarter with a few more "tribute" tracks from various sources. For home members there is the BALLAD FOR BING which is played on this double album of and by the National Youth Jazz Orchestra. From Australia there is BING, Fabel FB? sung by Paul Mackay - a 'single' of course; and from the USA A CHRISTMAS TRIBUTE sung by Lob Luman on US Polydor PD 1444. GOODBYE ELVIS, BING, AND GUY (LOMBARDO), is also available from the States though catalogue details are not available.

As stated at the start these are nearly all "overseas" issues - note the origin of the albums, usually US. But members who do wish to obtain these albums are recommended to contact any of the following who may be able to help:
Mike Slipman, Rare Recordings, 153 Francklyn Gardens, Edgware, Midd'x.
Dave Carey, The Swing Shop, 1b Mitcham Lane, Streatham, London, SW16
HMV Record Shop, 363 Oxford Str., London, W.1R 2BJ
Richard Selwood, No. 2. New Buildings, Milverton, Taunton.
Harlequin Records, 60 Dean Street, Soho, London, W.1.

We can only hope - and hope with good reason - that next time we will be in a position to review something more exciting in the record line on the "home" front. Summertime is not, traditionally, normally a hectic period in the industry but there is reason to believe that some good things are in the pipe-line.

DO NOT FORGET THE MINI-DISCOGRAPHY, COMPLETE TO THE END OF BING'S RECORDING CAREER IS NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE EDITOR: £1.50p post paid.

LATEST FROM THE PALLADIUM

On the facing page are the rather localised newspaper reports of Brighton's commemoration of Bing's final concert, and a letter sent to the Palladium on behalf of the ICC. A reply has now been received and it reads as follows:

> I have your letter of May 21st and have to tell you that I have no record of the letter you previously wrote to me, and perhaps the reason for this is that it was addressed to the London Palladium and may have got mislaid.
>
> Your request for a plaque for BING CROSBY is well understood and we are currently discussing various ideas. There is a feasibility that the Palladium may use a certain area to feature various stars and, if this comes to pass, Mr. Crosby would naturally be one of those stars selected.
>
> I'm afraid I cannot help you any more than this at the moment but I trust the foregoing will take place.
>
> Yours faithfully,
> LOUIS BENJAMIN
> Managing Director.
>
> 2nd June, 1978

The reference to the address of the Palladium is because the reply came from Moss Empires Ltd., Cranbourn Mansions, Cranbourn St., London WC2H 7AG - should anyone else feel disposed to write to Mr. Benjamin.

This doesn't close the door on the idea. To the contrary - though as I said in my letter, we would have expected Bing to be treated as a glorious example, or exception.

On the following page after that opposite, is perhaps one of the most futile stories ever penned. As you can see, it came from the States. Yet it may not be futile if everyone becomes aware, in these days when heart-attacks are so widespread and so without warning, that there is action that can be taken which might get a heart functioning again. There have been other articles and TV documentaries on this subject. In one it was suggested that a sharp blow in the region of the heart may even get it pumping again. And we never know in these days when we may be able to help.

But, for Bing.....so futile.

Beyond that page is another of reproductions, and this one shows how the East Yorkshire press covered the reactions of some of our leading Hull members last October....Frank Briggs, Alf Farrow, and Vic Gilmore, and they have included Bill Warley, too, who with Frank hasn't been in the best of health lately.

The tribute by DEREK JEWELL - "The voice of Mr. Everyman" appeared in The Sunday Times, to whom acknowledgement is gratefully made. The article marked appeared in the BANGKOK TIMES and is included here, of Vic Byne (Slough) to illustrate the worldwide coverage of Bing's shock passing.

Finally, on the page after that, are some published items you may not have seen.

Commendably, as you will see from the column on the right, Brighton has honoured itself by honouring Bing. And with equally commendable speed. We don't quite understand the sourpuss correspondent on the second report but no matter.

Not so the London Palladium who have told many of our members it is not "their policy" to commemorate appearances there. I have written to Mr. Louis Benjamin as follows:

Dear Sir, I wrote to you some months back asking if there was any intention to place a plaque or some other ornamentation in the Palladium to the effect that Bing had appeared there with considerable success.

I failed to get a reply but I have seen the replies sent to various of our members who also made the request. After saying, in effect, No, you added "...so many great stars - both English and international - who have passed away, had some highlights of their career at the London Palladium and to discriminate in this regard we feel could offend followers of artistes not included in this form of tribute."

I find this statement extremely disappointing as I would have expected the directing manager of the London Palladium to have gauged public approbation in the entertainment world so much better. Surely the other artists referred to would be - as they have been - among the first to agree that Bing Crosby was an entertainer and an influence totally and uniquely apart.

It cannot be said that Bing made his last public performance at the Palladium, of course, nevertheless he, in the last 2 years of his incredible life, did provide two of the most tremendous "seasons" there - one of them, forsooth, entirely for charitable purposes.

My feeling and I'm sure it would not be the opinion only of our organisation but of almost everyone, is that the Palladium would be itself honoured by marking these events.

Yours faithfully,

REG BRISTO.

21.5.78

A reply, this time, is keenly awaited.

Pat takes a back seat as her idea is unveiled

AS AMERICAN Ambassador Kingman Brewster unveiled a plaque in the Brighton Centre in memory of Bing Crosby's last concert, the woman who started it all was forced to take a back seat.

Brighton Council had taken over. Councillors, civic heads and council officers dominated the proceedings.

And Pat Lawrence, of Dyke Road, Brighton, remained anonymous in the back rows.

"I knew this would happen," said Mrs Lawrence, who started the fund-raising after the singer's death.

She submitted her own plans for a plaque, which contained a pictured of Bing by American cartoonist Kevin Kallaugher, who now lives in Brighton.

But this suggestion was vetoed before it even reached the town's amenities committee. Instead, a more formal inscription was accepted by the committee.

But Mrs Lawrence has not finished yet. She wants one of the Brighton Centre rooms to be named The Crosby Room. And it is in that room that she hopes to find a home for that cartoon of Bing.

One and only Bing

SPECTATORS at the unveiling of Bing Crosby's plaque at the Brighton Centre were quick to notice that the inscription is ambiguous:

"Bing Crosby gave his last public performance in this building on October 10 1977."

It was his only performance in that building. He died a few days later.

The U.S. ambassador, Kingman Brewster, was given a solemn guided tour by the civic entourage.

He showed polite interest and was asked what he thought of it.

"I've seen it before," he said.

He was there at last year's Labour Party conference.

VOICE OF EVERYMAN

Derek Jewell on an 'average guy'

AT ONE TIME almost every picture taken of Bing Crosby seemed to feature a pipe amiably gripped between his teeth, the very symbol of contented, reliable, ordinary-Joe manhood. In his later years, he gave up smoking, yet he'd still delight in telling you that he once won a bet by swimming ten lengths puffing at a lit pipe.

That was quintessential Bing. His debonair jauntiness never left him. He was sports-mad—horses, baseball, fishing and especially golf—but he had an edge in virtually everything he did over most of us. He won that swimming bet. He was a very good golfer. He gave all Walter Mittys something to aspire to—including his singing.

If popular music is the most pervasively inescapable art form of our century, then Bing Crosby is arguably our age's most influential artist. Almost alone, transforming a rich variety of musical and vaudeville styles, he created a new, personal vocal idiom which still echoes around the world.

Recalling his early professional days in the 1920s, he told me last year: "I used to listen to those trained singers, really forcing for volume and high notes. I just couldn't understand what they were *saying*. I sure hated that. I wanted to sing conversationally, to reach people with the meaning."

Reach the people, he did. He sang to them, not at them. His achievement was unparalelled: around 500 million discs sold, well over 4,000 different songs recorded, and upwards of 70 movies made. He reached the singers too. Without his fashioning of a personal musical revolution there would be no Sinatra, Como, Bennett, Bassey, no Diamond or Tom Jones, no Elvis and rock 'n' roll even, for he established not only a style but also a freedom for solo singers to do what they liked within the Afro-American idiom.

He fooled the world again by entitling his autobiography: "Call Me Lucky." So he was in some ways. He was fortunate that he began singing professionally in the 1920s just as wild young American was embracing jaz and was ready to shape its own distinctive popular music; just as radio, talkies, the microphone and records were about to change the face of enterrainment.

But Crosby capitalised on his luck. Singing with Paul Whiteman's band in the 1920s, he picked up the freedoms of jazz, used its inflections in his singing. "For phrasing, for taste, jazz was the start of me," he said. From vaudeville stars, he learned the art of timing, improving upon it when he made films with the great comedy director, Mack Sennett.

The words he sang—to which he so much wanted to give meaning—were no problem. In Spokane, Washington, the state where he was born Harry Lillis Crosby on May 2, 1904, he had become a star schoolboy elocutionist. "I took those eloquent lines in my teeth and shook them as a terrier shakes a bone," he said of melodramatic epics like Robert W. Service's "The Shooting of Dan McGrew."

As the 1930s dawned he took to the road as a solo artist and suddenly his career exploded. He was the first singer to have his own radio show, and it brought him national fame. He began his long series of films.

Effectively Bing became the voice of our mid-century, the warm, amiable and eloquent medium of everyman's hopes, nightmares and fantasies. His love songs were the accompaniment of dating, marriage, farewells, reunions and deaths for more than one generation. "White Christmas" (an unparalleled 30-million-seller) was the nostalgic anthem of the Second World War and of the much-interrupted peace which followed it. "Buddy, Can You Spare A Dime?" was equally the universal cipher for bad times.

Inevitably, Bing's all-round appeal — women liked him for his gentle voice, men for his sports-loving, regular-guy masculinity — brought him immense riches, which he increased by shrewd investment in oil, ranching, horses and other business ventures. Yet his success did not inspire enmities. The world enjoyed rather than envied him; and his mock-feuding partner; Bob Hope, set the tone: "He doesn't pay taxes. He just calls the Treasury and asks them how much they need."

Crosby's unflagging work for charities increased the regard in which he was held. So did his two successful marriages, first to the film star, Dixie Lee, by whom he had four sons, and, after her death, to Kathryn Grant, who gave him two sons and a daughter.

And now, it's over. With the world's most genuine sadness tempered by the perfection of the ending. He finished his singing career in London, his favourite city, and his voice after 73 years was astonishingly undimmed in quality if more limited in pitch. He told me last year that he still sang everywhere: in the shower, taking long walks, writing letters — but never on the golf course, which is where he died. "That would be conspicious. At golf, I only allow myself to whistle."

Yet, of course it isn't really over. The world will remember him in the sentence which he once agreed should be his epitaph: "He was an average guy who could carry a tune."

Emergency routine may have saved Bing's life: Doctor

BING CROSY might be alive today if someone had performed a simple emergency life-saving technique on his heart, says a medical expert.

The technique is called cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and consists of mouth-to-mouth breathing and external heart compression.

Dr. Julius E. Stolfi of the State University of New York's Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, N.Y., has taught hundreds of people to use the procedure which he believes could have saved Bing's life.

"When a man or woman suffers a heart attack at home, on the street, in a restaurant or on a golf course, as Crosby did," said Dr. Stolfi, "even prompt medical attention may arrive too late.

"If the brain is deprived of oxygen for more than four to six minutes, it dies."

Bing had just finished playing 18 holes of golf at La Moraleja Club near Madrid, Spain, when he was stricken last Oct. 14.

When he collapsed, his three companions carried him 150 yards to the clubhouse. He was rushed to a Red Cross hospital in the city but was dead on arrival.

Dr. Stolfi noted that Crosby had not had a previous heart attack and at 74 had been strong enough physically to survive a serious fall from the stage some months earlier.

"About 80 percent of those suffering a first heart attack recover," Dr. Stolfi said.

The late Bing Crosby: Emergency technique might've saved him.

"But there are still about 650,000 cardiac arrest deaths in the U.S. each year and an estimated 300,000 of these victims die before reaching the hospital.

"If even 10 percent of these people could be saved, that's 30,000 lives saved. And if every man, woman and child who is physically capable were instructed in CPR technique, I think we'd be able to save many more lives than that."

The reason, said Dr. Stolfi, is that "the majority of heart attacks are due to coronary occulusions (clogged arteries).

"In autopsy, many of the hearts we see have little damage and could have gone on pumping for another 10 or 20 years, if only someone—a relative, co-worker or passerby—had had a working knowledge of CPR."

The basic procedure is in three steps:

- Opening the airway by tilting the victim's head back;
- Restoring breathing by blowing your breath into his lungs; and
- Restoring circulation by pumping on the chest in a regular pattern to get the heart beating again.

Although the technique is simple and can be mastered by anyone over 10 years old, Dr. Stolfi cautions that it does require instruction and practice to be done correctly.

FROM "THE STAR", NEW YORK - 2/12/78

Hull fans mourn the 'Old Groaner'

HULL'S BING CROSBY fan club were in mourning today following the death of their favourite star. The sad news was broken to them during one of their weekly meetings.

Alf Farrow (64), of Milne-road, Bilton Grange; Vic Gilmore, in his 50s, of Aylesbury-grove, Willerby-road; Frank Briggs (56), of Walworth-close, Ings-road Estate; and Bill Warley (61), of Sharp-street, Hull, were meeting at Bill's home last night when a friend telephoned to say Bing Crosby had died.

"We were all very upset," said Mr Briggs today. "The news has left us all shattered."

Mr Gilmore, Mr Farrow and himself met some 12 years ago through the international Crosby Circle, he said, and Mr Warley joined their fan club a few years ago.

They have met mostly on Wednesday evenings at Mr Farrow's home to enjoy the music they all love.

Only a fortnight ago, the four of them travelled to London for Crosby's performance at the London Palladium.

A convention

Tomorrow, they had planned to go to Leeds for an annual convention, at which they would have met other fans of the singer. "I don't know whether it will still be on," said Mr Briggs, "but we won't be going now."

The first record Bing ever made was in October, 1926, with The Rhythm Boys, when he released "I've Got The Girl."

The four Hull fans can go back fairly near that time with their earliest Crosby discs—the 78s they have in their homes, as distinct from tape recordings.

They all have records made by their favourite in 1931. One released on June 12, "Many Happy Returns Of The Day," is Frank's oldest. For Vic it's "Out Of Nowhere," made in March, and for Alf, "Dancing In The Dark," cut on August 19.

Alf has a message from Bing recorded on a private record for club members who met at the North Shields convention some years ago.

He also has a typed letter, dated 1940, at the end of which, in his own handwriting, the singer has added: "We are all pulling for the Allies."

Alf was secretary of the Bing Crosby Friendship Club in 1939, a job which war service eventually forced him to give up. Vic had also been a member.

Alf and Frank have spoken to Bing — over the telephone when he was in London in 1969. Being members of the International Crosby Circle meant that they were able to get through to him without problems.

3,000 songs

Between them, Alf, Vic, Frank and Bill have more than 3,000 Crosby songs. These include single, EP and LP records, as well as tapes.

Frank finds it hard to decide between his favourites, "Temptation," recorded in 1933, or "Brother, Can You Spare A Dime?" Vic says it depends on his mood at the time, but Alf is definite. 'Gipsy Love Song,' made with Frances Langford," he states emphatically.

Another person upset about Crosby's death is Mrs Hilda Lewis, wife of Coun. Harry Lewis, former leader of Humberside County Council.

"It was my life's ambition to meet him," said Mrs Lewis, of Nestor - frove, Bilton Grange. Although she is not a member of any fan club, she has many of Bing's records, including some 78s.

Crosby (73), who called himself "The Old Groaner" and whose love of golf was often the butt of his own jokes and those of his long-time friend, comedian Bob Hope, collapsed moments after completing an 18-hole round at La Moraleja Golf Club yesterday.

The Oscar-winning singer and actor had flown to Madrid alone and unannounced on Thursday for a short holiday after finishing a successful tour of Britain in a show which also featured his second wife Kathryn and other members of his family.

He died after a foursome match in which he and his partner, Spanish champion Manuel Pinero, had beaten Moraleja club president Cesar de Zulueta and professional golfer Valentin Barrios by one hole.

- He was the father of my career, the idol of my youth and a dear friend of my maturity
  Frank Sinatra
- A gentleman who took success casually but elegantly—President Carter
- It is a loss to the world—Dorothy Lamour
- He was a true professional—Ernie Wise

MADRID (AP) — Bing Crosby, whose crooning voice and relaxed humour entertained millions around the world for half a century, died of a heart attack yesterday while playing golf outside Madrid. He was 73.

Crosby, an avid golfer, collapsed at the 17th hole of the La Moraleja Club, while playing with three Spanish champions. He was taken to the Red Cross Hospital where a spokesman said he was dead on arrival.

The singer, actor and businessman had come to Spain primarily for relaxation after a tour of Britain which he described as a test of his recovery from a back injury he suffered in a fall earlier this year. The accident occurred while Crosby was taping a television show to celebrate his 50th year in show business.

The brown-haired, blue-eyed Crosby was known variously as "Der Bingle," "Old Dad" and "The Groaner" — tags stuck on him by his long-time friend and verbal sparring partner, Bob Hope.

Hope, in New York, said of the news: "I still don't believe it. I'm absolutely numb ... I saw him a couple of months ago and he seemed fine ... I can't understand what happened."

Crosby made more than a score of records which sold more than one million each. The most widely known hits included "Silent Night" — his all-time best seller, "White Christmas," "When The Blue Of The Night Meets The Gold Of The Day" — his radio theme song. It was often said during his prime in the 1930s and 40s that at any time, somewhere in the world, his rich baritone could be heard on a radio, phonograph or juke-box.

For many years, Crosby was credited with selling more records than any singer in history. He was overtaken in the 1950s, however, by Elvis Presley, who also died recently.

Crosby seemed to be at home in almost every medium. He made more than 70 films and won an Oscar as best actor in 1944 for "Going My Way," in which he played a priest. His screen credits ranged from the "Road" comedies with Hope and Dorothy Lamour to "The Country Girl" in which he played an alcoholic to the rollicking "High Society."

Hope said yesterday that he and Crosby had just "resolved all the contract deals" for a new "Road" picture with Miss Lamour, "The Road To The Fountain of Youth."

Trudy Berger, the cook at the Crosby home in Hillsborough, California, said yesterday "he had been feeling fine — we were expecting him back in a day or two."

True blue Bing making his name

IF YOUR musical memories go back to the days of the early talkies there's a ring-a-ding album just released.

It's vintage Bing Crosby, and with a special interest. For here are 23 songs Bing sang in a series of short films released between 1930 and 1933.

Remember those films? ...One More Chance, I Surrender Dear, Blue Of The Night...?

The LP, Where The Blue Of The Night Meets The Gold Of The Day (Biograph 9199.508, released by Phongram) reproduces the actual sound tracks, and although the sound falls away a bit here and there it's not at all bad.

Here is Bing when he was making his name after the Rhythm Boys broke up; when they called him a crooner; when critics sneered at his style. The snipers fell by the wayside and Bing went on to become the best-loved entertainer of all time.

These early songs show that Bing's way with a song was to change but very little—for instance, I Surrender Dear, Just One More Chance and Were You Sincere. Apart from romance there was a sense of fun, a whistle here and there, and always a faultless performance.

The 23 tracks have not been released before and they include nine that Bing never recorded for release, such as For You (I'd Weave A String Of Pearls), Lovable and Auf Wiedersehen. For Crosby fans here is a record to fill a gap.

Bing . . . best loved

NOW for a couple of "Bing And . . ." re-releases. The first, Bing Crosby And Louis Armstrong (Capitol CAPS 1016), has been a favourite of mine since it first hit the turnables.

Behind the Top Two is a band with the knowing Billy May arranging and conducting—and where do you get a better backing than that?

Billy May is doing his stuff again on Bing Crosby And Rosemary Clooney—That Travellin' Two-Beat (CAPS 1017), which is all happy-jazz style to a Dixieland beat.

BING KEEPS PLEDGE TO KIDS

BING CROSBY never forgot the promise he made at a dinner party to a wife who works for charity.

And yesterday a £2,500 cheque from him dropped through her letter box . . . "to go towards helping children."

Talked

Mrs Mandy Chisenhale-Marsh, of Bickley, near Ripon, a member of the North Yorkshire Committee of the NSPCC said: "It came completely out of the blue.

"We talked during dinner about charity work and Bing said he wanted to give a charity concert for children, in Yorkshire because he loved the county.

"But there was no theatre available when he was last touring Britain, and I thought the whole idea had been forgotten.

"But Bing obviously hadn't forgotten. All he asked was for the money to go towards helping children."

Bing's cash will be used on a special unit for battered children in Leeds.

● Bing flew into London yesterday for a show at the London Palladium.

President Carter made this statement on Bing Crosby's death:

"For all the roads he travelled in his memorable career, Bing Crosby remained a gentleman, proof that a great talent can be a good man despite the pressures of show business.

"He lived a life his fans around the world felt was typically American: Successful yet modest, casual but elegant. He revolutionized popular music, sang the biggest hit of all time, and yet was a man who would be at ease in any American home."

Rosalynn Carter was grieved to learn of the death of Crosby and had been looking forward to seeing him at the White House this Christmas, a spokeswoman said.

Mary Hoyt, the First Lady's press secretary, said Mrs Carter "was distressed" to learn of Crosby's death.

"Only yesterday she sent him a letter asking him to sing some of his wonderful Christmas songs at the traditional Christmas party for the Press on Dec 17, Mrs. Hoyt said.

In the letter, Mrs Carter said, "Jimmy and I would love to invite you to sing at the White House."

"IT'S EASY TO REMEMBER—BUT SO HARD TO FORGET." A lovely ballad which Bing Crosby sang many times during his career. Paradoxically, however, it's easy—very easy—to forget. Bing's death evoked a worldwide response, but since the funeral on October 18th last fewer than 40 people per day—now only about 15—have visited the grave site in Holy Cross Cemetery.

"It's sad that there aren't many people coming," said the cemetery caretaker—"fewer and fewer come every day—most of them elderly women." Mrs. Josephine Russo, of West Hollywood, California, is shocked and surprised that people seem to be forgetting Bing so soon. Her feeling of sadness is double-edged—that Bing is no longer around, and that so many of his fans are showing such apathy. "Sometimes there aren't any flowers on his grave," she says regretfully, "but I really think that there are many people who don't know where Bing is buried." Frank Heck visits Holy Cross Cemetery frequently because he has relatives buried near Bing's grave site. On his last visit he shook his head in sad disbelief. "I was the only one there," he commented.

Sad, it seems, when we remember Bing Crosby's many qualities. Apart from his singing, which captivated folks in every part of the world, he was modest, appreciative of others, a model family man—a guy which one meets "once in a blue moon." But perhaps the flowers will yet appear on his grave—"Spring will be a little late this year," "April Showers" are a certainty, and there should be plenty of colour when "June is bustin' out." Yes, these, and the innumerable songs Bing sang will for ever be associated with him—many of them with him alone. And Christmas time—"White Christmas." Perhaps there will be snowdrops on his grave.

But in that brightest dawn of all he can be assured that the words he sang will come true—"Where the blue of the night meets the gold of the day. Someone waits for me."

"CAMUS."

'OLD GROANER' FANS TO HELP CHARITIES

A Walsall man has set up a Midland Bing Crosby fan club following an exclusive article in the 'Observer' last November.

Mr. Tom Evans, aged 59, has been a member of the International Crosby Circle since he was 18 years old. First meeting of the new 'Midland Branch' was held at the Bridge Inn, Wolverhampton Road, Walsall.

Mr. Evans said it was attended by 10 people but they are hoping their membership will increase as more people find out about the organisation.

'We are hoping to start arranging some money-raising events and the proceeds will go to local charities in the memory of Bing," he added.

Memberships of the International Crosby Circle entitles fans to the quarterly magazine called BING through which members can obtain pictures, unreleased tapes and attend the annual club meetings.

Mr. Evans managed to see his hero for the first, and sadly, for the last time during his performance at the London Palladium last year.

"One of the world's lights went out when he died. He was the world's No. 1,"said Mr. Evans.

Anyone interested in joining the fan club is welcome to attend the meetings at the Bridge Inn at 8.00pm on the first Tuesday in every month.

"Walsall Observer" Friday April 14. 1978.

Please see announcement in TRADING POST regarding Tom's Midlands' effort - and I understand the membership given in the above article is now out of date and it is growing steadily.

The efforts to organise the Midlands attracted yet another newspaper story - and is evidence of the goodwill that has always obtained in matters to do with Bing, see next column,...

BING FANS TO SPARE DIMES FOR CHARITY

Devotees of Bing Crosby who meet at a Walsall pub are to combine nostalgia with charity fund-raising.

Members of the Midlands branch of the International Crosby Circle meet at the Bridge Inn, Wolverhampton Road, on the first Tuesday of the month.

They play the Old Groaner's records and hear talks on various aspects of his long career.

"But we hope in future to be able to combine this with raising money for local charities," Mr. Tom Evans, one of the branch organisers said.

"We shall be holding film shows and social evenings to raise money, " added Mr. Evans, a 59-year-old retired local government officer, of 84 Brereton Road, New Invention, Willenhall.

So far, so good - and its a great idea to raise cash for charities in Bing's name. It is understood some of the long-time stalwarts are rallying round to support Tom but it is clear there are literally scores of Midlands area members who have not "answered the call". Tom would like very much to see them at the Bridge Inn.

Some members, it is true (and there's no criticism intended) do not wish to be too organised. Fair enough - but Leeds has shewn how thoroughly enjoyable it can be to mingle for a few hours with kindred souls.

I am bound to say that it has always been my experience, travelling around and meeting people when I can, that Crosby people are NICE people.....try it!

And as you will also see in TRADING POST, PHIL CLARKE is similarly engaged down on the South coast -

And Frank Murphy is pressing on in the North East !

BOOKS!

BING BOOKS, NATURALLY .....

* * * THE FILMS OF BING CROSBY.
Clothbound 11" x 8½"
400 great photographs.

£10.00 plus postage

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* * * THE ONE AND ONLY BING
Clothbound 11" x 8½"
250 great pictures

£5.50 plus postage

These are treasured possessions for any Bing enthusiast; it will be noted these are the shop prices, which means no profit motive is involved. Merely a desire, knowing how speedily books disappear from the shops these days, that some copies at least are available to our members.

Write to PETER DIFFLEY,
7 Heath Road,
Cale Green,
STOCKPORT, Cheshire.

Peter would consider exchanges against Australian GOING HOLLYWOOD albums.

"RARE RECORDINGS" Mike Slipman, 153 Francklyn Gardens, EDGWARE, Midd'x, HA8 8SB - Specialising in importing records and should also be of considerable assistance to members without contacts in the States. A long list is currently available including the SUNBEAMS, all the SPOKANES AND TOTEMS, COLUMBIA SPECIAL PRODUCTS, THE MANY JAPANESE ISSUES, THE MURRAY HILL SET Records will be posted in stiff cardboard sleeves expressly made for the purpose. One record postage 35p, 2 records 55p. Write with SAE for Mike's lists which include other artists if desired

RECORDS!

"ARCHIVE",
Richard Selwood,
2 New Buildings,
MILVERTON, Somerset:

- offers a special concession to members: "DISTINCTIVELY BING" Sunbeam double-album (see KEEPING TRACK) Cat. No. 502 and 504 is available at £8.25p including post and packing. RRP is £9.00 Please indicate your are an ICC member.

Additionally, Richard has the following albums, especially imported -

BING CROSBY 1931 (MISTER SOFT SOAP) FROGBIEN £4. BING'S RARE FIRST BROADCAST Frogbien £4; BING AND FRANK - HO HO HO £4. BING'S BEAUS MDTB05 £4. BIG BROADCAST OF 1935 - Kasha King £4. BING & AL Vol 6 Totem £5. BING SPOKANES NOS 4,5, 6 and 7 BING & AL VOL 1 £5. BING AND AL VOL 2 TOTEM £5. Cash with order plus 50p P & P. Also send for complete listing of imports, directories, tape club lists, film stills, etc. etc.

THE SUNBEAMS, subject of the special offer top of page, are in most unusual silver/black sleeves and the reproduction is on a par with the CBS "A BING CROSBY COLLECTION" 1928-32 - if not better.

Fate played a bit of a nasty trick on those brave souls who imported the BIOGRAPH when it suddenly appeared here marketed by Phonogram (Philips) at £3.99. The record is identical, of course, but the American sleeve - a double - is much more attractive. Still, the difference in price is a heck of a lot to pay for a sleeve most members will feel. The US versions costs in most places £4.90 plus P & P!

TRADING POST

This feature sharply illustrates the difference between a commercial journal and BING...for here, members may advertise free for records, tapes, pictures, books and all kinds of Crosbyana - FREE. Commercial publications rely upon advertisements for their revenue and by that means get subjected to all kinds of pressures to aid or supplement those advertisers editorially. We have no such obligations and gladly offer the space so that the collecting of Crosbyana by loyal members of the Circle can be furthered. On the other hand, we do not wish to take up too much of our precious space - so if you have long lists of records to offer, please invite an SAE for your lists. Try and confine your insertions to around half-a-dozen lines; and if you put them on a separate sheet of paper and not "hide" them in a long letter (!)it will go a long way to ensuring their appearance. We are anxious that members should be mutually assisted through these offers:

FRANK AYRES, 439 Sutton Rd., Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS2 5PJ has the following for "auction" - BELOVED HYMNS LA 8734, MERRY XMAS LA 8686, STARDUST LA 8514. Auction closes 4 weeks after this issue of BING is received. They are in near mint condition. Also a quantity of 78s - SAE for further details.

JOHN BRENNAN, 20 Mount Rd., South Benfleet, Essex: Can anybody please help with material which could be used for broadcasting over hospital radio service, ie records no longer wants - drama, comedy, "chat", tapes ideal. It would be appreciated by a lot of people. Thank you.

FRANK HATWELL, 240 Gillott Rd., Birmingham 16: Brunswick 10" LPs "COLLECTOR'S CLASSICS" - covers and records MINT: LA 8687-8723-8726-8727-8742. Contents same as first 4 vols. of BING'S HOLLYWOOD with exception of numbers from THE STARMAKER replacing those from EAST SIDE OF HEAVEN. Prefer to sell in one lot. Realistic offers please.

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN "THE SOUTHERN BING CROSBY TRIBUTE CLUB". There are monthly meetings, also club cassettes available to members only, PLUS super club badges of Bing. Membership fee is £2.00. WRITE TO PHIL CLARKE, 69 WALDEN ROAD, STAMSHAW, PORTSMOUTH, HANTS

MR. G. R. T. (TOM) EVANS, of 84 BRERETON ROAD, NEW INVENTION, WILLENHALL, STAFFS, WV12 5LR IS BUSILY ENGAGED ORGANISING A MIDLANDS AREA BRANCH OF THE ICC WITH SIMILAR OBJECTS TO THE ABOVE - REGULAR MEETINGS. THOSE WITHIN THE AREA AND CONVENIENTLY PLACED SHOULD WRITE TO TOM. THESE "REGIONAL" BRANCHES ARE AN EXCELLENT IDEA AND HELP TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF GETTING CROSBY PEOPLE TOGETHER WHEN, NATIONWIDE, THEY ARE SO FAR SCATTERED. BOTH DESERVE SUPPORT

One of the bugbears of getting organised these days is the high cost of postage; so it is a tremendous help if a stamp, or a SAE is enclosed, when making enquiries.

MR. J. H. PARKS, "Korville" Shepherds Close, Odstock, Salisbury, WILTS, SP5 4JF: Regrettably I find it necessary to dispose of my considerable collection of Bing 78s numbering around 340 . They include Brunswicks starting at 1155 to 05674; Capitol, Columbia; HMV, London, and the rare 10" of HOME ON THE RANGE/BLUE PRELUDE. Write for lists or special requirements. (Editor: I have seen the list and it includes BUDDY CAN YOU SPARE A DIME, LAST MILE HOME, POOR OLD ROVER and others that are regularly enquired for; inevitably a large number have since appeared on LP but for those who still prefer the original 78s this seems a good opportunity.)

JIM LOVELL, 23 Priory Rd., Acton Green, London, W4 5JA would be pleased to hear from anyone who has a copy of the BIRMINGHAM MAIL tribute to Bing, published almost immediately after Bing's death.

NEVILLE JARRETT, 12 Mulgrave Rd., Linthorpe, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS5 6EU: I have over 500 LPs of classical music of which I am prepared to swap any for LPs of Bing - opera, symphony, etc. Let me know your wants. (Editor: Classics for classics, forsooth! Neville, by the way is interested in get-togethers if anyone living nearby is interested - but Sundays are out as Neville is The Rev. - a modern one, too!

DENIS COOK, 90 West Way, Broadstone, Dorset, BH18 9LS: Bob Roberts had a cassette of Bing's FLUFFS & REJEXTS but I did not take up the offer at the time. Can anyone oblige please?

MR. D. HARTRY, 159 Farmilo Rd., Leyton, LONDON, E17: FOR SALE - 3 mint, seal unbroken LPs in box privately issued in America only of GOODMAN, SHAW, JAMES, KRUPA, JACK T &c. Most tracks previously unissued. Offers please - this is a really superb set.

DEREK COLLINGE, 41 Marsden Hall Rd., Nelson, Lancs, BBC 9PA has a spare copy of HEY JUDE, HEY BING (SHU 8391) £3.00 final. post and packing. If writing, SAE please - can phone Nelson 692791 after 6pm.

KEVIN ANDERSON, 455 North Reeder Ave., Covina, California, 91724, USA has FOR TRADE - BOOKS: BING CROSBY by Barbara Bauer (paperback); STORY OF BING CROSBY by Ted Crosby (Hard cover); INCREDIBLE CROSBY by Barry Ulanov (hard cover); CALL ME LUCKY (Bing's own auto paperback). RECORDS: Goldilocks - Disney ST 3988; Goldilocks - Armstrong Presents; Bing Crosby Show with L. Armstrong and Rosemarie (Memorabilia Records); Geraldine (Little David Records LD 1001) all MINT. And HIGH TOR - Decca D18272 excellent condition. ALL STAR FESTIVAL (UNITED NATIONS RECORD - Bing sings LAZY RIVER with Louis Armstrong Mono UNM-1. All records MINT with poss. exception of HIGH TOR please see exc. These are for TRADE ONLY. MY WANTS are English Brunswicks 78 MOMENTS TO REMEMBER BR E OE 9466; DEAR FRIEND BRE E 04736; OL' MAN RIVER BR E 01140. The 4-OK records 78 speed. V-Discs 24, 49, 67, 143, 203, 241, 28, 142, 463, 685, 673, 780 and 893.

MRS. MARY WHITAKER, 69 Fairfield Rd., Fairfield Park, Tadcaster, N. Yorks, LS24 9SW: has for sale BING'S HOLLYWOOD NOS 5, 7, 13; HIGH TOR and the 45rpm TIE A YELLOW RIBBON. All in very good condition.

PETER MURRAY, 5/5 GREENDYKES DRIVE, Edinburgh, EH16 4HL: I want parts 1, 2 and 3 of the Bing story from radio. I have for trade the following tapes (reel to reel, which is what I require) 1. BINGS SHOW 1958 with Pattie Page and Dean Martin; 2. Bing Show with his 4 sons and Rosemary Clooney. 3. Bob Hope show with Bing and sons 1959 4. Bing's Kraft Music Hall Airchecks 1937. 5. ditto 1941. 6. Bings Show 1943-44 (All taped in the States, some from TV). If anyone is further interested I can trade various jazz shows recorded in America TV/radio).

NEIL ROBINSON has moved from Burton-on-Trent to 39, Southdown Ave., Brixham, Devon on account of his wife's health and would much like to hear from members in his new area, having lost many of his former Crosby contacts...

PAUL MORRISON, Kirby Villa, Dene Crescent, Rowlands Gill, TYNE & WEAR NE39 1DS would like to purchase back issues of BING before No. 41 please. Paul, by the way, belongs to the Northern Branch of the Jolson Society.

RICHARD PEARSON, 109 N.Wayne Street // 5, Arlington, VA 22201, USA: Wants to trade a 4-hour tape of Bing radio shows, or other radio shows for any back issue(s) of BING previous to the March 1977 issue. A genuine offer which will be honoured.

A complete 12" LP collection of over 1,000 up for sale. Includes over 100 of Bing's plus many of artists such as Como, Sinatra, Martin, Connie Francis, Jim Reeves, Mills Brothers, Andrews Sisters C & W., instrumental and light classical. Almost all in mint condition. Sorry no complete lists but details can be supplied of small sections on request. Prices from £1.50p: GEORGE HARWOOD, 5 Glebe Rd., Hemingford Grey, Huntingdon, PE18 9DS. SAE for replies please.

BILL HUNTINGTON, 266 Westminster Rd., Morecambe, Lancs would like to trade a 1976 Palladium programme for a 1977 one if anyone can help please.

BARRY SCHOFIELD, 536 Wakefield Rd., Dalton, HUDDERSFIELD HD5 8PU wonders if any members might be interested in tickets for FRANK SINATRA'S next London visit: ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL. He has same for the last concert - 16th September at 9.15pm. Barry will also probably have tickets for the Sammy Davis Jnr. performances later in the year. You can contact Barry at the address above, OR telephone him on HUDDERSFIELD 38832.

BING ties (navy blue with the Bing "silhouette" motif in gold) are available from Mr. Ron Baxter, THE BADGE CENTRE, 45 Ropergate, Pontefract, W. Yorks WF8 1JY - tel: 702351. Price is a very reasonable £1.60 post paid. Its an attractive tie and can be worn with most colour suits.

NOEL J. MOULD, 16 Sussex Court, ANTRIM, N. Ireland offers C60 tapes of Bing's original soundtracks songs from 1931 to 1955 as well as some 500 songs from Kraft Music Hall shows at £2.00 each plus postage.

MAURICE CHANTREY, 177 Kent House Rd., Beckenham, Kent still wants a copy of the SAINTS & SINNERS LP if anyone can help please.

NON-COMMERCIAL taping requirements may be met by the following (SAE when enquiring please):

ARTHUR BLOOD, 597 Osmaston Rd., Derby, DE2 8NE.
GEORGE HARWOOD, 5 Glebe Rd., Hemingford Grey, Huntingdon, Cambs. PE18 9DS
STAN AUSTIN, 58 Pear Tree Avenue, Yiewsley, West Drayton, Midd'x, UB7 8DQ
ARNOLD BAKER, Cherrytree House, 48 Groomsport Rd., Bangor, Co. Down, N. Ireland.

CHAS. H. DRABENSTOT, 644 River Drive, Munster, IND 4632, USA is anxious to know what older LPs are available here. These are, of course, always listed in BING but I imagine Chas. wants a UK contact to forward him albums - a task your Editor, alas, just cannot undertake. But anyone wanting a US contact for what should prove mutual benefit should contact Mr. Drabenstot.

Cont. over.

RAY LEACH, 48 Lindlings, Hemel Hempstead, HERTS HP1 2HE: If anybody has a recording of Bing singing at the London Palladium (or elsewhere) the Noel Coward medley, LONDON PRIDE, I'LL FOLLOW MY SECRET HEART, etc. etc. I would be grateful to have a copy.

(Editor: This medley has indeed provoked a lot of interest; but it does seem unlikely that it is on record anywhere - short of an unauthorised on-the-spot private effort! If anyone DID do that, we promise not to tell - for now it would be an extremely valuable recording. It was clearly a nice gesture by Bing to the British "master". Ray's phone no. is HEMEL HEMPSTEAD 58922)

MICHAEL KENEFICK, No. 4 Friar-street, Youghal, Co. Cork, EIRE is much interested in Michael Holliday and in particular a record called HI which he is looking for. He would also like to be in touch with Holliday admirers for he feels Mike was the nearest approach to Bing - as he was, at least, during one stage of Bing's career. Michael Kenefick also asked, with a lot of other members, whether ROY CHAPPELL had made any records? To Roy's great regret, no, he hasn't. He has been on the verge of it several times but it has never come to fruition - even during his 3 years with Sid Phillips's Band. He has, however, broadcast several times since the late 50's and early 60's, once with the legendary Ambrose Orchestra in its final days. Michael (Kenefick) added something else which more properly belongs in LETTERS but as we're on the subject, here goes:

> Back in the summer of 1960 Mike Holliday spent two weeks holiday here - this is a large seaside town on the south coast of Ireland. He appeared at the local ballroom, doing his act and I got to meet him nearly every day and I suggested to him he should bring out an album of Crosby material. Subsequently there appeared, in 1962, TO BING FROM MIKE. I would like to think I had a part in this though its possible the record would have been made anyway.

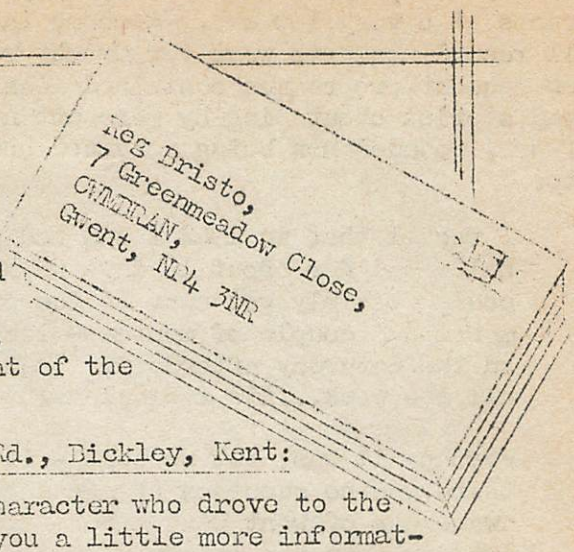
GORDON THOMAS, 50 Barnstock, Bretton, Peterborough, PE3 8EH has sent us a catalogue, BOOK CITY, Christmas 1977 which lists a large number of show business personality books - and the cover has a very nice picture of Bing in his Santa Claus outfit, with the sumptious "ermine" trimmings by the Christmas tree. Gordon tells us he has a number of these and will give them away free on receipt of a SAE - which should measure a minimum of 6" x 9". A kind thought.

JOHN WOOLNOUGH, 572 Reading Rd., Winnersh, Wokingham, Berks (Wokingham 784712): SALE: Large collection Bing LPs, EPS., NO 78's - including many imports and limited issues. Send foolscap SAE and state particular requirements. Unfortunate circumstances dictate sale.

MANY MEMBERS set out to record the whole of the new BING CROSBY STORY on the radio, with its updated ending, but for various reasons fell by the wayside for some of the instalments. Mostly it seems cassette versions are wanted. Will anyone having got the whole story down, and is prepared to copy for others, please let the Editor know so that their names can be listed in the next issue? It is not suggested that the whole 15 instalments are required, just certain missed episodes.

THE BING CROSBY PHOTO CLUB, details from Frank Murphy, 32 Ferndale Avenue, Wallsend, TYNE & WEAR (see details in last issue) cordially invite members of the ICC to the North East's FIRST ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE to be held in the Prince of Wales Room at the County Hotel, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (opposite Newcastle Central station) on October 14th - 6pm to 10.30pm. Admission from 5.30. Private bar and refreshments. Tickets 60p from Frank Murphy. Please enclose SAE with your application. This organisation also issues BING PICTORIAL and specialises, as the title implies, in pictures of Bing and his career as well as cassette tapes of Crosby material. Special facilities offered to members of the ICC.

LETTERS



A deservedly popular feature where we hear the news and views of our members. Letters should be addressed as shewn on general matters but enquiries &c. on records, and research of same, should be addressed to those listed at the front of the magazine:

MR. W. H.EWERT, Timber Stones, 35 Chislehurst Rd., Bickley, Kent: Re. your comment in the last issue about the character who drove to the LBC studios with the record PLEASE I can give you a little more information. He is a Mr. Derek Mooney of Chalfont St. Giles, Bucks. He was not a member of the ICC at the time but when I spoke to him a couple of days after the broadcast I persuaded him to join. My purpose in contacting him was to say that I had recorded most of the programme and offered to do a copy for him - which he accepted. I have 2½ hours of that 3-hour programme and would like to know if any body has by chance the first 30 minutes which I could have? It was a most interesting effort albeit full of errors as I suppose this sort of phone-in programme must be. The announcer tried manfully considering he was thrown in the deep end, as it were, but he was even unaware of Bing's signature tune! However, it is a historic record of that tragic evening.

I have been in touch with Carroll Carroll who was responsible for the scripts used in Bing's Kraft Music Hall. He is still very much in harness and writes a weekly column in VARIETY. In his letter to me he mentioned that there was a paperback available in the States he had written called MY LIFE WITH.....! - Burns & Allen, Bing Crosby, Al Jolson, etc. etc.

I now have a copy of this book which is nearly 300 pages long and is full of most interesting anecdotes with Bing getting plenty of mention. Copies are available direct from the publisher: MAJOR BOOKS, 21335 Rosecoe Boulevard, Canoga Park, California, 91304, USA. Price is 1.95 dollars plus 35 cents postage. I recommend it.

> Editor: Interesting - and I hope someone can give Mr. Ewert that first 30 minutes....the cost of the book plus postage is 2.30 dollars - and the current rate of exchange is around 1.8 dollars to the £. So it would cost about £1.25p all-in.

KEITH RICHMOND, 27 Glebelands, Pulborough, West Sussex, RH20 2DZ: The letters recalling Bing's wartime popularity in Britain are of great interest to one of my age, particularly the vision of Butlin's camp as conjured up by Mr. Arthur Holmes in the last issue.

> Editor: Altho' Bing had been a star without equal in all the fields everyone now knows - radio, records, films - for 9-10 years when World War II started, and even then had complete and unique standing, that War brought a whole new phase to Bing's career; and it led to memories by the million. Literally, by the million - beyond any computer to enumerate. Even if one rules out WHITE CHRISTMAS (and one cannot, really) there were so many songs pertinent to the War, people apart - MANDY IS TWO (of the growing baby), I'LL BE SEEING YOU (one day), YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE, SAN FERNANDO VALLEY...songs without number. One recalls that the military authorities in the Pacific theatre of operations once requested the home broadcasters not to use Bing's records when the war was going badly for us in the early days. The unbearable nostalgia of Bing's voice brought homesickness that, with a certain amount of demoralisation already existing as

the Japanese, by reason of surprise, swept all before them for a time, had the troops at a very low ebb. At home in the UK it is well-known that two-thirds of all record requests were for Crosby records. Naturally, these were leavened but few request programmes contained less than three Bing records. I personally have read stories about Bing by merchant navy men rescued from icy waters; prisoners of war, wounded men being returned home in sea-transports, air-raid shelters, etc. etc.

> I recall that in 1942 I had had a bad attack of the 'flu and had been half-dead for about 10 days when Saturday arrived (the only day then I could possibly get away to the pictures). My wife - we hadn't been married a couple of months - looked aghast when I said let's get ready on the Saturday afternoon. "But you can't go OUT! You've been terrible all the week...its ridiculous!"
>
> Perhaps it was; but we went - it was the last day of HOLIDAY INN and there was no question of missing it. I think that was my wife's first awareness of what Bing meant to me. She's learned a lot more, a whole lot more, in the intervening years!

If members have a favourite WAR-TIME memory of Bing I'm sure it would make a good feature and we'll be glad to hear from members.

BERYL OVERBURY, 60 Highland Way, Redditch, Worcs B98 7RH:

One small point I would like to correct in the last issue re. the newspaper story about Peter Monaghan. Someone's memory is at fault for Frank Sinatra has never recorded STRANGER IN PARADISE and Peter's choice could only have been between the Four Aces, Tony Bennett, and of course, Bing.

I was also interested to read about Margaret Rainbow. I didn't see the TIT-BITS story but our own local evening paper did print a picture and story about her at the time of Bing's death. She also came one night to the Birmingham Branch meeting of the Sinatra Music Society to present an hour-long programme about Bing - which we all enjoyed very much. I remember asking her at the time if she belonged to the ICC and she said she was not interested in joining any society or club about Bing. Hrr words were: "I'm not interested in knowing what he has for breakfast". I did try to explain it was not this kind of club and did she not want to talk or write to others who shared her interest? She replied in the negative.

Margaret Rainbow attended another music club's meeting at the same venue as ours the very night the sad news came thro' about Bing. The host, who of course, knows me very well, told me that Margaret fainted at the news and they had to carry her out and revive her she was so overcome.

A sad ending is that her husband died suddenly only a few weeks after Bing. He was one of the biggest authorities on jazz and some of our committee who knew him went to the funeral, where jazz records were played by request.

> Editor: Mrs. Rainbow has been the subject of magazine and newspaper articles concerning her vast Crosby collection, and there is no doubting her dedication. We are, of course, sorry about her feelings for "fan" clubs but respect her views and are extremely sorry at the two sad blows she suffered one after the other. But in view of her oft-stated views there seems to be no point in us contacting her, much as we would like to do. Beryl Overbury, as well as a keen Bing admirer, is also a prominent member of the Sinatra Music Society as you may have gathered. Any others interested might contact Beryl.

MR. G. GRAY, 68 Havilland Rd., Thornaby, Cleveland:

I booked three seats to see Bing at the London Palladium on 7th October last; one for me, one for my wife and one for my sister at £7.50p each. On the morning of

that day my wife and I set off to have a look around London as we intended to stay only until the Sunday.

> We got on the underground train at Kings Cross Station about 9.00am and before we reached Euston I felt a bit queer. I got off the train at Euston and collapsed on the platform. I woke up in University College Hospital in the intensive-care unit. When I recovered enough to speak I told everyone who would listen that I was in London to see Bing that night - and would they please fix me up quickly so that I could get there. After being X-rayed and examined by several doctors it was made quite clear that I would not be going anywhere for a while.

So my wife and sister went to see Bing after I insisted that they went without me.

The worst time was when I was laid in bed with suckers on my chest and a drip-feed bottle inserted into my wrist, and as the clock got to 8 pm I imagined Bing walking onto the stage...

> I tried to think about what was happening there at the Palladium but I must have fallen asleep.

I was in the hospital for a while but they let me go home sooner than they wanted because I could not afford to keep my wife in the hotel indefinitely. I had been made redundant on 30th September and being 64 years of age there was no way the firm could keep me on. And as I had been with them only a few years I got very little in the way of redundancy money.

When I heard that Bing had died on 14 October it must have been fate that I was not intended to see him after getting so close to it.

> I have not recovered from the trouble I had in London as you can guess from the mistakes I have made in this letter but it seems I am lucky to be here at all. It was a great disappointment to me not to see Bing - and knowing now that I will not get another chance.

My wife got me a brochure/programme and handed them in at the stage-door to be autographed by Bing and when we did not receive them I wrote to the Palladium and enquired about their fate. After about three months I got them back, signed by Bing. So at least I have something tangible to remember him by.

> Editor: I imagine that must be just about the most dramatic - and moving - letter ever seen in BING or its associated predecessors. And it needs no comment or embroidery from yours truly. We can only hope that Mr. Gray is making good progress from his obviously serious illness, and also his tremendous disappointment at missing his lifetime's ambition. As he sadly says, "...I will not get another chance."

We are delighted that so many members have now, against what seemed all the odds, now received back their brochures autographed by Bing. And there is no doubt that the signature is genuine. Clearly Bing, in his schooled, methodical, fashion so characteristic of him, settled down and autographed all these souvenirs before he left on that tragic visit to Spain. They were obviously shipped back to America with all of his possessions and had to be returned from the Crosby office. One of Bing's last tributes - and efforts - for the people he seemed to respect as much as we respected him.

KEN WHITTAKER, 69 Fairfield Rd., Tadcaster, N. Yorks:

I am puzzled that BING'S HOLLYWOOD is supposed to include all the songs from Bing's films from 1934 to 1954 and yet those albums do not. For instance, I remember in ROAD TO SINGAPORE Bing and Bob singing CAPTAIN CUSTARD. But on BING 5 which covers

the music from that film you won't find that song...the book also lists another song from the same film "Kaigonn" which I don't remember. The HOLLYWOOD LPs do indeed say "selections from the film" in each case. Perhaps they didn't want the set to run any longer than 15 records?

Editor: Ken surprised me with this letter. I too, without thinking much about it, had subconsciously thought the 15-album set covered all the songs in Bing's films 1934-1954. But a little thought proves that to be fallacious - yet I hadn't thought about it. The reason is, of course, that Bing recorded his film songs for Paramount soundtracks for the films naturally, and on commercial records for Decca. And both were entirely separate projects. Going thro' the Hollywood set record by record this becomes very clear; all sorts of odd choruses - KAIGOON was a chant sung by natives incidentally - were performed in the various films but did not warrant recording, one imagines, by Decca. It is another reason, too, why the soundtrack albums that have been compiled in different parts of the world on a private basis are sought after. They contain all the film songs as they were sung by Bing in his films, of course, and not as he recorded them for Decca. Still, an excellent point to air and I'm grateful to Ken Whittaker for raising it. Incidentally, Ken told me in his letter that for quite a while after hearing of Bing's passing he just couldn't bear to play his records as he did before the news....the feeling is passing but, as he says, it can never be quite the same again. Ken wonders if other members felt like that? I know they certainly did....

ARTHUR C. HOLMES, 33 Grange Hill, Midd'x, HA8 9PG:

I was thrilled by the beautiful and fascinating tribute paid to Bing in the letter from Granville Allen in the last issue. A wonderful letter from his former neighbour - and it makes one wonder whether all Bing's benefactions and the fine work he was always doing will ever be completely known. All of it was so typical of Bing - so typical, in fact, that I suppose we are no longer surprised when we read or hear of further good things Bing continually did, and in a way is still doing as a result of the charities he financed and in a lot of cases, originated.

And isn't is great news that SEASONS has qualified for a Gold Disc! Never has an album deserved one more than this truly glorious LP. I know I have given this more time on the turntable during the six months since it was issued than any other record for a long, long time. And I feel SUMMER WIND must be my favourite. Bing surpasses himself with this marvellous song - warmth, sincerity, feeling - all of Bing's natural characteristics are there in full abundance. Johnny Mercer wrote an unforgettable lyric, perhaps his best in a distinguished career.

I have the new CBS Vol 1, likewise the two Sunbeams and I quite agree with Bert Bishop and you, Editor, they are PURE GOLD. High quality material from that golden era of song-writing. I was lucky enough to pick up some 78s of some of these songs two or three years ago - STARLIGHT, I'VE GOT TO PASS YOUR HOUSE, LITTLE DUTCH MILL, LET'S TRY AGAIN, YOU'RE STILL IN MY HEART. But before then, they were absolutely unknown to me and I realised then what I had been missing all those years. A new era of Crosbyana opened up for me. What really and truly magnificent songs they are and Bing sings them as only he can. And what of the BIOGRAPHY, certainly in the same category. I had no idea at all that FOR YOU was a Bing original. I remember my father had this song on a sixpenny Woolworth Eclipse records aeons ago and always liked it. Now, at this stage, to hear Bing sing it - as it should be sung!

Editor: I think Arthur is right: we'll never know the full story of Bing's philantrophical activities. Especially as he saw to it that most of them got no publicity. As for the new issues happily coming away of Bing's very early work, well, we've long realised that there are indeed whole new areas of Crosbyana to delight those younger people who - so far - have rooted (!) for the 50's, 60's and 70's - not that there is anything wrong with those decades!

ASTRID LUNDGREN, Jungmansgatan 131, 621 00 Visby, ISLE OF GOTTLAND, SWEDEN:

I would very much like penfriends in England belong to the Circle with whom I could exchange views about Bing. Leslie Gaylor has been most kind in sending me records I cannot get here in Sweden but I do not like to bother him as he has so many letters to write. Perhaps I should be in TRADING POST but I don't know quite how to write an ad. but I would like someone between 35-50 for they will have known and loved Bing about as long as I have - since I was about 9 or 10 years old - about 30 years ago. Maybe at the same time they would be interested in collecting postcards and photos and stamps and be interested in flowers and birds etc. I have many interests but always my biggest has been Bing.

Editor: Well, there's a nice invitation from a Swedish lady. I'm afraid I am ruled out by the age bracket quoted, being about 150. But I don't look it, I'm told. Ingrid does sound an extremely nice person...it would be nice to be in touch with her...so... We didn't catch up on all the bereavements of the tragic year of 1977 which took so many leading figures of Crosbyana. Witness this sad letter which I'm sure the lady doesn't mind us using:

MRS. M. BURT, 3 Fitzburgh House, Milton Rd., Southampton, SO1 2HY:

Shortly after our beloved maestro died, I lost my own husband on the 30th November, 1977. Two ICC magazines lay unopened on the sideboard because of the searing double shock. My husband and myself were both devoted admirers of Bing. I have many endearing memories of my husband in connection with Bing and the shock for me was severe.

Yesterday, for the first time I opened and read the magazines sent thro' the post addressed to my beloved husband. I found the contents stimulating and wish to become a member on my own account and continue the interest we both enjoyed so much...

Editor: I have, of course, written to Mrs. Burt and I am certain the sympathy of all of us goes to her. Such letters come as a melancholy shock and reminder of the passage of the years. Happily, such letters often contain ringing fervour of the consolation the interest, and the voice, of Bing brings in such sombre circumstances. Truly another tribute to his imperishable memory.

BERNARD J. DENHAM, 795 Greer Rd., Palto Alto, California 94303, USA:

You are all doing a superb job in getting these hefty issues out as regularly as you do and may there be such continuing (and growing) interest in Bing that you have enough material for all the coming years. I would always be interested in hearing from people who have issues 1 to 40 for sale. Is there any way that you can send the magazine in a flat envelope to avoid the folds that get in it? I'm sure the answer is a matter of expense...

Editor: Thanks for kind words - it IS expense. Today one has to amply prove one is sending a magazine/newspaper, otherwise it has to go at the full letter rate which, to America, is astronomical. I hope you can flatten 'em in time.

MORTON B. MILLER, 21910 Marter Rd., St. Clair Shores, Mich. 48080, U.S.A.:

Is there any possible way in which I can obtain issue No. 48? I wanted it so much since it was a special one following Bing's death. I finally obtained the autobiography albums after months of searching. I happened by chance to walk into an unfamiliar record shop to find their stacks were inundated with BING AT THE PALLADIUM double at 3.99 dollars Does this compare favourably with your prices in England? Is it possible to mention my name and address in the magazine as someone interested in exchanging or purchasing Bing albums?

I need someone in England (Britain?) to reciprocate record acquisitions. Are there any plans to publish a supplement to the LPography which would list album releases over the past couple of years? I am bewildered as to why Bing albums are not grabbed as soon as they go into the racks here - the man was a legend and yet, in many ways, seemingly forgotten by the American public. You people in England are to be congratulated for affording Bing the kind of adulation and loyalty that he so richly earned and deserved. On behalf of Bing fans on this side of the Atlantic I would like to thank you for including us in your distinguished International Crosby Circle. I agree that Les Gaylor is a gem of a person, replying to everyone in his own hand. A most remarkable chap.

Editor: We would be less than honest if we didn't say we are proud to get letters like that. I don't think Bing is so much forgotten in America but its as so many, including Ken Barnes, have told us - the record situation in the States has really gone hay-wire in favour of rock, punk, bunk, and all the other really primitive forms of jungle music. They cannot, perhaps, see the wood for the trees.... but Bing's shows in the States always attracted house-full notices - and in Canada - and his TV shows, especially those at Christmas, always seemed to get into the top ratings. I think the underlying American attitude was - Bing is there, always has been, always will be....an American institution, in fact. In further proof, I think it HAS been the neglectful policy of the US record companies, pandering to the fast-buck principle, that has largely contributed to the situation as regards records. And it doesn't apply only to Bing; other prominent American artists whom there is no need to name, get only spasmodic attention but still retain their public. But none of them, none, get the attention that the aforementioned rock, punk, etc. groups get. And to really get down to grass-roots, who would believe (from record output) that the venerable Mills Brothers, true contemporaries of Bing from 1930, are still highly successful and always busy starring? Yet they most certainly are

If anyone wants to exchange records with an American colleague, they can do so safely with anyone mentioned in BING....yes, we do aim to bring the LPography up-to-date from time to time, although as we have said before, the LPography hopefully will continue to expand for years and years - unlike the discography which has now come to an honoured end. Indeed, we have plans to issue an easier-to-read listing of Bing's albums and this is being pursued. But don't write for it - yet!

Our issue No. 48 of last November proved, it would seem, a most memorable issue of BING; so much so, that despite modest second and third reprintings, there were never enough copies for those wanted them. With hindsight, we should have made the original printing about three times as big as it was - and that was bigger by far than any previous issue.

It does seem that at 3.99 dollars the Palladium album is much cheaper in America - unless Morton visited a super-bargain record shop! That price is just a shade over £2 for the double set. I think that at that price I would be inclined to lay in a stock! It will be priceless in a few years.

SEVERAL READERS HAVE WRITTEN CONCERNING A STORY THEY SAW ABOUT A NEW ROSE THAT HAD BEEN NAMED AFTER JUDY GARLAND AND, PERHAPS INEVITABLY, ASKED WHAT ABOUT ONE IN REMEMBRANCE OF BING? WELL THERE IS ALREADY SUCH A ROSE: I RECALL IT BEING ANNOUNCED IN BING SOME YEARS AGO, BUT THAT WOULDN'T PREVENT ANOTHER BEING SO NAMED IF ANYONE HAS INFLUENCE IN THE WORLD OF HORTICULTURE - AND CAN GROW UNIQUE ROSES!

MRS. ANN COLBERT, 38 Wyndene Grove, Freckleton, Preston, PR4 IDE:

My husband and I were among those fortunate to see Bing last September - an experience never to be forgotten. To see the master at work was an occasion I never thought I would have the chance to thrill to...would you kindly mention that I would be interested in corresponding with other Bing fans - anywhere in the world? I am 33 years of age with a four-year-old son. My husband and I live in a small Fylde coast village near Lytham St. Annes and I was a school teacher before my son was born. Apart from Bing my interests are coooking, reading and travel.

Sincerely, Ann...

Editor: The Circle, we are delighted to say, has linked so many members..it sound as tho' Ann would be a delightful correspondent.

WILLIAM TOOTLE, 71 Pocket Nook Street, St. Helens, Merseyside, WA9 1NQ:

I noticed you overlooked the name of Ted Rogers in the interesting list of other artists Bing had sung with on record (see last BING). Ted, of course, sang GONE FISHIN' with Bing on the LIVE AT THE PALLADIUM set....

PIP KNIGHT, 57 Burlington Rd., West Bromwich, West Midlands, B70 6LE:

I noticed in the list of Bing's Vocal accompanists spot in the last issue that Burl Ives was not included. I know that 'commercial issues' was stressed but Burl was recently released on a box-set with Bing, the track being ON TOP OF OLD SMOKEY. It was, of course, taken from a radio show. I thought I'd mention this as we've received a letter from Mrs. Ives saying that Burl may be returning to England within the year so we may get a chance of meeting him again.

Editor: Fair enough! Both Ted Rogers and the lovely singer Burl Ives should be added to the list. But as Pip says, we did say commercially released records. But then, aren't they all commercially-released! But these inclusions do illustrate that the way of the discographical-researcher is hard today! The list as published was derived from a comprehensive discography over the years - and it concerned artists that had sung with Bing in the recording studio and, presumably, under contract to do that very thing. But now that all kinds of pirate and semi-pirate 'independents' are brashly, and in some cases, courageously issuing radio material, we enter an entirely new field. Leading discographers now take the view that these bootleg (to coin a phrase!) issues SHOULD be included in discographies. And in that case, Burl Ives and Ted Rogers would prove to be only the tip of a gigantic iceberg - if old radio shows continue to be issued on LP. Pip Knight, as you will have gathered, is a devoted admirer of Burl Ives as well as of Bing and tho' still a very young man, has been for years. Not bad taste, either, for Burl has always sung melodiously, tastefully and with impeccable taste. His version of OLD SMOKEY with Bing is particularly attractive.

HOWARD ROWLEY, 23 Denby Lane, Codnor, Derby:

No Palladium this year....I don't think I'll ever go there again. How can there by anything "special" to see with Bing gone? By the way, have we registered our "initials" of ICC - or does it mean the Imperial Cricket Conference? And can you tell me the address of Brunswick (UK)? A word in the magazine may get us all to write asking for a reissue of BING'S HOLLYWOOD 1-15...

(Cont..

Editor: Correspondence still shows that a reissue of this mammoth series of fifteen albums is the most sought after. It is ever reissued, however, it will be by EMI/MCA, currently holding the American Decca contract and not on the erstwhile Brunswick label. It is far from impossible, of course, for it to be reissued but it is a tremendous project - fifteen 12" LPs needs a lot of sales to make it financially successful, even in the present circumstances. However, it would be defeatist NOT to do all we can for those who most like to have it available again - letters requesting it should therefore be sent to EMI/MCA Records Ltd., 20 Manchester Square, London, W.1.

It was at the time of the Packer cricket rumpus that the initials ICC were to be seen on the small screen and in the newspapers; there is no copyright on initials, I'm afraid, and ICC can mean the Ilford Co-operative Choir, the Ingledon Canoeing Club or what have you!

BRIAN BLAKE, 354 West Rd., Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE4 9JX:

I became interested in Bing Crosby in 1977 as I was in the Newcastle Gang Show '77 at the Theatre Royal. We did a number called 50 YEARS OF BING! This proved one of the most popular numbers in the show with an audience of over 2000 per night. We had a lot of difficulty trying to get hold of Bing's music but we eventually got some of his best songs. Our musical director received a telegram from Bing himself wishing us all lots of luck with the show. (Such was a nice letter received and in asking for further details Brian sent us the following:)

Some of the songs and the manner in which we sang them were as follows:

Swinging on a Star; Pennies from Heaven; Too-Ra-Loo-ra-loo-ral; That's what life is all about; Meet the Sun Half-way; Sweet Potato Piper; The Bells of St. Mary's; White Christmas, April Showers and, of course, Where the blue of the night meets the gold of the day.

The production opened with the seniors singing BLUE OF THE NIGHT and then the girls came on stage singing MELT THE SUN HALF-WAY. Some of the juniors did a dance to APRIL SHOWERS and some to PENNIES FROM HEAVEN. The lights then went low and some of the older seniors under a spot-light started to sing TOO-RA-LOO-RA-LOO-RAL. We did not ask the audience to join in but - as, I understand, in Bing's stage shows - they did and this sounded wonderful.

> Towards the end a man dressed as if he was off for a round of golf, complete with club in his hand, came on stage and sang THAT'S WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT.

We finished - quite a finish, too - with one chorus of BELLS OF ST. MARY'S and two choruses of WHITE CHRISTMAS. It was all most successful - and highly delightful to play in.

Editor: Excellent! So many things going on - and we're always pleased to hear about them.

JOE CAIN, 14 Windsor Rd., Prescot, Merseyside:

Its more important than ever that the ICC continues...we would be letting Bing down. As Helen has told you, we went to see Bing at Manchester and there are no words to describe that man. After watching Helen there - a child of ten - we can safely say it will not only be our generation that will remember Bing. He will be remembered for all time, God Bless Him.

Editor: Helen wrote first on behalf of her Dad and I described her as her dad's secretary! This pleased Helen not one little bit - and she told me quite plainly that SHE was as big a Bing fan as anyone.....Again, delightful!

FILMS - FILMS

In view of the fact that we had been more or less agitating for a "season" of Crosby films before the tragic event of October last to tie in with Bing's tremendous stage shows it is even more lamentable that the BBC has not only failed to mount such a series of Bing on the screen in his record-breaking films but STILL has no plans to do so. Many of our members have written to the Corporation expressing their feelings only to get a stereotyped reply from the "Correspondence Section" saying not only that they were not showing a Season of Crosby films but were not even contemplating it!

One gets - usually - an awful sense of futility in writing to a Corporation such as the BBC. For a start, if you get a reply from a correspondence department or section, you feel you are just not reaching the people who matter. On the other hand, perhaps sheer weight of letters will sometimes cause the letters people to pass them on to the planners and producers. Let's hope so.

Having seen so many of these virtually identicaly replies, we wrote to the BBC as follows:

> Dear Mrs. Cundy,
>
> I have seen the many stereotyped replies you have given to probably scores of members of this Circle regarding a Bing "season" of films. It does seem incredible that the BBC cannot mount this tribute to a man whose career, by any standards - and universally acknowledged at that, not only by his fans - was completely and entirely unique.
>
> On the other hand I realise the BBC does not automatically have all Crosby films available, and this is more true when perhaps our members have been asking for some of the earlier ones. I realise, too, that the BBC has the films it buys in its "packages". Even so, there are enough films available surely to mark Bing's passing by means of a season.
>
> After all, such efforts were organised with alacrity for such as Presley and others, and for people like Wayne, Stewart and Bette Davis.
>
> You can rest assured that a large slice of the listening and viewing population have been acutely aware of this omission following the tragedy of last October - and I repeat, this awareness does not apply only to members of this Circle.
>
> Yours faithfully,
> REG BRISTO.
>
> 8.5.78

To date, no reply has been received - not even a formal acknowledgement.

But while on the subject of Bing's films, it is apparent that several of our members are also members of the National Film Institute and one of them, Mr. Jim Turner, wrote a letter which was reproduced in the Institute's journal, NEWS. Jim wrote as follows:

(Cont. over

BING SHOW:

Sir - The recent sad demise of Bing Crosby prompts me to ask a question that I have had in mind for several years, and that is why have we not had more Bing Crosby films at the NFT? The only film that I can recall is BLUE SKIES which formed part of a Fred Astaire season.

Another rather curious fact is that some years ago at the time of the joint project with THE SUNDAY TIMES (Cinema City), the co-editors left Bing out of their biographies. Whatever the pressure on space, he must have qualified. After all, some of those that were included did not top the box office for several consecutive years, or sell 400 million records.

Let us have matters put in their right perspective with a Bing Crosby season and an all night Bing show.

J. Turner,
8 Cell Farm Avenue,
OLD WINDSOR, Berks.

This worthy letter produced one of the most delicious and cutting pieces of irony one could ever wish to see in the shape of a letter which read as follows:

BING ONLY SINGS:

Sir - Your correspondent, J. Turner of Old Windsor must be naive. It is obvious why the films of Bing Crosby are not included in the BFI files and shewn on the NFT (National Film Theatre). Can he remember one that could be written up as a good example of sado-masochistic eroticism? Or a good demonstration of disintegration of personality, or a popular type of horror film? If Bing were to have built up a realistic personality, such as a pulp fiction character, got himself killed from time to time by a prostitute - or passionately murdered his wife's maid - or been a hero with an impotence complex who abdubted young girls and did plastic surgery on their faces, well we would have wanted to see the films.

What is the point of living a wholesome life with music that the plebs like, and what value is there in selling more discs than anyone else in the world? Who wants to see pictures of a decent bloke laughing and being cheerful?

Mr. Turner should read the February list of the films being shewn at the NFT and learn what the best films for us to see are. Now if Bing had been a homosexual who raped a lesbian in a brothel and murdered her ponce to avoid paying and then stolen the ponce's takings and smashed his way through the bodyguards, killing them all, and ended up in a river - he might have got a few NFT showings.

Yours faithfully,
WILL GREEN,
90 Wells Way,
Camberwell, LONDON, SE5 7UA

Editor: This must be a slashing indictment of the modern film scene - the day of the scruffy anti-hero - and yet another lovely tribute to Bing. We congratulate Will Green on some wonderful irony. He is NOT - so far - a member of the ICC but we feel he is eminently qualified to be in our ranks.

AND A REPLY HAS NOW BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE BBC in reply to the letter quoted above, page 39.

(Cont. over

Dear Mr. Bristo,

Thank you for your letter of 10th May.

I am afraid there is still no news I can give you of a season of Bing Crosby films but your letter has been drawn to the attention of our feature film editor.

Yours sincerely,
Sheila Cundy (Mrs)
Programme Correspondence Section.

7th June 1978

That the suggestion has been passed to the feature film editor could be construed as minimal progress, providing that worthy isn't a rock 'n' roll fan....but at least, it got further than the professional letter answerer! I do, however, think it as well to bear in mind what was said in my original letter to the BBC to the effect that they do not necessarily possess all Bing's films. Indeed, I would be gratified if they were holding more than 20.

ADDITIONS TO "TRADING POST"

BARRY HOLLOWDAY, 6 Heo Green, Wick, Littlehampton, Sussex, BN17 6DD would like to contact any ICC members in his locality.

E.R.DUNKLEY, 22 Westfield Rd. Yaxley, Peterborough, Cambs. PE7 3LG is anxious to know if anyone can help him with the Brunswick LP "DRIFTING AND DREAMING" please?

ERIC MOORE, 5 Irwell House, Aigburth Vale, Liverpool, L17 0EH has an enormous number of 78s on offer by the auction method. They include sought-after items on Columbia 12", 10" and Brunswick 10", plus LPs Bruns. 10", Ace of Hearts (AH 1, 17, 24, 40 - these include of course, the OLD MASTERS vols. 1,2,3. Fontana 10" TFR 6000, Crosbyana 12" CCL 1 and 2, and the book BING AND OTHER THINGS, hard-cover, mint. Write for record lists with SAE.

As a postscript to the above on films, JIM TURNER feels it is fair to point out that he has been corrected and that the following films, additional to BLUE SKIES, have been shewn at the NFT since 1970: GOING MY WAY: HERE COMES THE GROOM: RIDING HIGH : SEVERAL OF THE ROAD FILMS and numerous clips in reviews etc. But, Jim asks, what of WAIKIKI WEDDING, RHYTHM ON THE RANGE, DIXIE, IF I HAD MY WAY, MISSISSIPPI and so on? It is as I said: do the BBC have them? The fact that American TV shows more and older Crosby films can in no way be taken as a criterion as to what the BBC holds.

WHEN BIDDING FOR RECORDS, OR ANSWERING ADVERTISEMENTS POSTAGE AT THE RATE OF AROUND 36p FOR ONE RECORD AND 60p FOR TWO and upwards roughly proportionately should be borne in mind - and allowed for.

GENE DOUGLAS, 5357 Portland Avenue So. Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417, USA sends us an intriguing despatch: Friends! We have a real treat coming. Bob Deflores has located a very rare item for us to share. He is re-recording the sound-track from Bing Crosby's Paramount "short" entitled PLEASE! This is something collectors DON'T have so it really is a fabulous find. As soon as I can get a decent copy of these songs I will get a tape off to our good friends in Australia. I will get copies to Britain and to Spokane records as we want everyone to enjoy this tremendous find. You've the songs before - but never as used in this soundtrack. GHOST OF A CHANCE, for instance, is really different. This is from a very private collection so we'll have to be satisfied just hearing the music and not hearing the story behind it.

(cont. over...

Bob is also trying to locate another Paramount "short" - JUST AN ECHO...

Editor: This is indeed interesting, for little is known about the film PLEASE. It was a two-reeler made in 1933 with a running time of 22 minutes. In addition to GHOST OF A CHANCE, Bing apparently sang PLEASE, YOU'RE GETTING TO BE A HABIT WITH ME and DEAR OLD GIRL. In addition to these, all of which Bing recorded commercially of course, ROCKED IN THE CRADLE OF THE DEEP, HOW DRY I AM, and MY DARLING were in the film and Paramount believe, but are not absolutely certain, that Bing sang all of them. We will follow this up with Gene Douglas naturally and we can be assured that some bootlegger will get the songs onto an album! We'll try and beat them, at worst with tapings. Much the same applies to JUST AN ECHO, another two-reeler of Bing made in 1933 but released early 1934. In this Bing sang JUST AN ECHO IN THE VALLEY and YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL TONIGHT, MY DEAR (also commercially recorded) and GOING, GOING GONE, PLAY FIDDLE PLAY and TWO TICKETS TO GEORGIA.

We don't know Bob Deflores but applaud his efforts.... GENE DOUGLAS also sent us a a magazine article you will probably like reading but he didn't give the source of the story. Here it is, and please note this is a reprint and NOT in any shape or form the words of your Editor!

A HERB CAEN SPECIAL: THE BING I KNEW..... The Bing in our life...

I turned on the car radio shortly after noon yesterday and there was Bing Crosby on KMPX-FM singing Hoagy Carmichael's LAZYBONES in recorded duet with Louis (Satchmo) Armstrong, and it was, as always, a delight. These two old pros so obviously enjoyed each other's company. They were easy and loose, laughing and swinging, each ad libbing lines that cracked up the other. The warmth was so palpable that it almost oozed through the speaker.

It was only a few seconds later that I heard the newsflash that Bing Crosby had died. It came, as it must have to millions around the world, as a jolt to the midriff, a blow to the head. Suddenly, the most familiar voice of our time had been stilled, and those of us of a certain age knew that we had passed another milestone - a mighty one.

I pulled over into a parking place and thought about the many lives and sides of Harry Lillis (Bing) Crosby, a man I had first heard of an an old Paul Whiteman record called MISSISSIPPI MUD. I met him shortly before World War II and I have known him, after a fashion, ever since - without really knowing him.

For one of the most public men in history, he was strangely private - without ever being rude. He suffered fools, autograph-seekers and columnists gladly, but he maintained his distance in the most elegant, sophisticated way, always knowing exactly how to break off a conversation, when to saunter toward the exit. His saunter, of course, became as famous as his pipe, his bow tie and his drawl.

Bing and Satchmo, a natural, glorying in each other's company as they harmonised on and noodled with LAZYBONES. And yet I remembered the time, not too long before he died, when Satchmo said: 'Bing Crosby and I have made records together, and appeared in public together - but I have never been to his house, or he to mine.....'

For a star of superstar caliber, Bing Crosby was amazingly low-key, accessible and even vulnerable. He would go alone to movies in San Francisco. I recently shared a hamburger and shake with him at the Hippo on Van Ness, where the other customers stared at him or said hello but

respected his privacy.

> The contrast with Frank Sinatra was inescapable. Sinatra is the kind of insecure, basically hostile person who cannot travel without an entourage to stroke his ego, and linebacker bodyguards to keep his fans at bay. Sinatra continually feels threatened, and acts threateningly. I remember a night in Las Vegas when a nice-looking young boy said: "Mr. Sinatra, I'd like you to meet my girlfriend."
>
> "Whaddya mean, YOU'D like me to meet your girlfriend," snarled Sinatra. "Whadda you? Her agent or something? Is she so dumb she can't say for herself that she wants to meet me?" And so on as the young couple drifted off, red-faced, embarrassed. "Creeps," muttered Sinatra, returning to his drink.

Bing Crosby was beyond that sort of behavior. He never needed entourages. He exuded the kind of reserved friendship that, all by itself, kept people, even the so-called "creeps", from pestering him. Nor did I ever hear him heckled. He may have been the best-liked man in the world, even among those who found his politics a shade on the conservative side. Bing definitely leaned to the right, but he was a master at keeping his political views to himself.

Editor: Any comment on that would be entirely superfluous! Except to remind you that it was an American article.

A CROSBY QUIZ: Starting with easy ones! Answers further on....you should try and answer straight off and not consult sleeve notes, records, books &c - at least, in the first instance!

1. Name Bing's six sons - and which of them were the twins?
2. Who promised to make Bing "the next Vaughn Munro?
3. Who ductted HO!HUM with Bing on record?
4. What was the first "Road" film - and the last?
5. What was Bing's "name" in IF I HAD MY WAY?
6. In which film did Bing sing MOONLIGHT BECOMES YOU?
7. Another film apart ffom GOING MY WAY when Bing appeared with Barry
8. Bing had 16 Ace of Hearts (Decca) albums: name eight of them(Fitzgerald?
9. What were the three commercial records (NOT air-shots) that Bing made with the Mills Brothers?
10. What song did Bing sing in tribute to the Mills Bros. in SONGS I WISH I HAD
11. On which recording with Bing did Frank Lovejoy play a part? (SUNG?
12. What was the first record Bing made with the Andrews Sisters? And the last?
13. What was the celebrated old vaudeville duet Bing did with Johnny Mercer on record in 1938 - and what was on the reverse?
14. Name at least three musical directors on OL' MAN RIVER Bing recordings.
15. On which album did Bing sing NEVER ON SUNDAY?
16. Name three of Bing's radio sponsors.
17. Who was the male singer who joined Bing & co. on THERE'S NO BUSINESS LIKE SHOW BUSINESS and ANYTHING YOU CAN DO?

THE LYRIC BING - in which there is a distinction from the LYRICAL Bing - - - - -

By Dick Nettlefold:

(Faringdon, Oxon)

Bing Crosby became so much a part of the fabric of life - the Crosby part was long dropped and it was just "Bing!" with no possibility of error, of course that it was not unusual to pick up a book, even a novel, perhaps especially a novel, and find his name mentioned "Crosby was singing on the radio...." "Bing was on at the Palace in MISSISSIPPI..." and so on. And not only did Bing, as we came to know, sing about everything, but he was often sung ABOUT and in the 1930's and the 1940's the lyric writers paid their own tribute to Bing's special place by writing his name into a number of songs. With the help of readers I would like to set about building up the definite list of such songs.

> These songs falls into two categories: songs in which the writers included reference to Bing in the original lyrics, and parodies which were introduced by various artists. Some times the latter superseded the former and in some cases it has become difficult to distinguish between the two. In fact, Bing himself joined in the game in company with Johnny Mercer and we had MR. CROSBY AND MR. MERCER overtaking the original MR. GALLAGHER & MR. SHEAN.

Both varieties of the genre leant themselves to impersonations, some of which were excellent, e.g. Jeanne Crain's daydreams in the film STATE FAIR which she shared with Boyer, Coleman and Crosby and included a fair impression of Bing singing a few lines of IT MIGHT AS WELL BE SPRING.

Into the parody category (though I would be glad to be corrected) probably go Sinatra's THESE FOOLISH THINGS (...'the song that Crosby sings...') and Bob Hope's AIN'T WE GOT FUN? with Margaret Whiting (...'the rich get rich and the poor get Crosby...')

Durante's INKA DINKA DOO ('...I got that note from Crosby - and was he glad to get rid of it!'...) was neither original lyric nor parody, but an aside which perhaps makes a third category. Al Bowlly inserted references to Bing into YOU OUGHT TO BE IN PICTURES ('..and if I could sing like Bing in a way that is nonchalant...') and ONLY FOREVER ('...we're gonna sing for you refrain No. 2. - direct from Crosby we bring it to you...'). This latter being a duet with another well-known 30's vocalist, Jimmy Messini. The Mills Brothers in their impeccable swing vocal arrangement of OPUS ONE ('...and maybe ol' Bing will give it a swing...')

But to return to the genuine article; a song that included the name of Crosby in the original lyric. I list the following for members to argue about and, hopefully, add to.

I THINK I CAN ('..and maybe sing like Bing') featured by Jack Buchanan.
BUT DEFINITELY ('When you are crooning the blue of the day and whistling the gold of the dawn; Bing, Bing!) Shirley Temple.

RUM & COCA COLA ('...and the natives swoon every time Der Bingle croon') The Andrews Sisters.

SWEET SIXTEEN ('...and it was then I decided to join a monastery, and I would have too if it hadn't been for Bing Crosby..') Judy Garland.

MY KID'S A CROONER ('I..I think I'll write to Crosby and ask him what to do, to stop my kid from crooning, boo, boo, boo!') Featured by all the bands and their singers in the 30's

WHEN MY SHIP COMES IN ('...I'll have Paul Whiteman there to play for you, I'll have Bing Crosby singing boo, boo, boo!') Eddie Cantor

LOVE IS ON THE AIR TONIGHT ('..you should never sing to her if a song is not in your alley..you may sound like Bing to her but what if she likes Rudy Vallee?') Dick Powell.

WHEN THE GUARDSMAN STARTED CROONING ON PARADE was featured by all the bands of the 30's, and in particular by Henry Hall and the BBC Dance Orchestra. A long novelty number with so many references to Bing that space does not permit them all, especially as the lyricist did not hesitate to rhyme Crosby with busby! It also contained a song within a song performed in best Crosby phrasing by Ian Donovan, the vocalist with Henry Hall at the time.

Then there was CROSBY, COLOMBO AND VALLEE, featured in the fifth instalment of the Bing Crosby Story on radio recently with commentary by Sir Douglas Fairbanks Jnr.

And we mustn't overlook the anguished paraphrasing of Sinatra in his 50's tours of Britain when, in rendering OL' MAN RIVER, he interpolated '...but ol' man Crosby he jest keeps rolling along..) And a song that was big in Australia IF I COULD SING LIKE BING. I feel that with the help of members it will again be illustrated that in this lyric-field Bing will be a clear winner - as he was in everything associated with popular music in the last 50 years.

Editor: Memories, memories! I believe the original lyric of THESE FOOLISH THINGS was 'the song that Crosby sings...'but subsequent singers (the song of course became a standard) saw fit to up-date it and we heard the song that Sinatra sings, or Presley sings - perhaps to-day it will be the song that Donovan sings....which reminds me, I heard this performer the other day and listening to him, and listening accidentally to performers like Rod Stewart I can only come to the sad conclusion that "singing" has an entirely different meaning these days to what it once had.

Ah, some of the days....what of these "new" albums coming forward - the BIOGRAPH, the SUNBEAMS, the two EMBASSIES (CBS) and others - almost painful in their nostalgic appeal. So relentless in tearing us - some of us! - back to those wonderful days of the 30's. Wonderful? Well, perhaps not really for this is no pining backward glance at my youth. Far from it - I'm not all that for going back even if I could! But those songs, that voice - that powerful, vibrant voice with always a hint of a smile in it if the lyric got too lachrymose. That voice full of masculinity singing songs in the way, it seemed, we always wanted to hear them. Clearly but never mincingly enunciated...breaking all the choirmaster's rules about not bending notes, not breaking notes.

Bing is inextricably tied to the Christmas season now; he was then, of course. But I recall sunny, summer mornings - Sundays of course - out in the garden. A modest patch, nothing elegant - with the supreme voice floating out through the windows - dozens of windows. No-one yelled to you to "turn that ruddy noise down.." Indeed, I was usually asked to "turn it up a little - and would you please put on HOME ON THE RANGE?" Dear old Bing. Yes, it was how he was described THEN! HERE LIES LOVE, PLEASE, MAY I? LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR....And those albums bring it all back so positively, to tangibly. Nothing, nothing at all has been lost - except in the present circumstances, those ruling since October 14 1977 - those songs tear at the heart that such a voice, even after 50 odd years, had to be silenced. My late parents with no time at all for jazz and those other "bawlers" always had time for Bing...ol' Bing. "Put Bing on...." Strange, it was Bing, ol' Bing, or dear ol' Bing even then...

Good Heavens! No wonder we all felt we had lost a lifetime's friend...all those years ago - and Bing has just departed this mortal life, as big, as powerful, as lovable as ever. No wonder things turn grey, a little ache appears just when we think it had to be...and we have his records. But, when we have those records again its tough.

How often I recall a friend, a mate, turning up in great excitement: "Gee whiz! Have you heard Bing singing TEMPTATION?" Clutching the precious 78 in his hand - we had to be co-operative in those days when 2/6d was indeed 2/6d and a substantial part of one's pocket money! We would proceed to tenderly play the record for the next hour until every word, every note, every nuance was burned into the memory. No wonder such songs are inclined to tear one apart these days...

How, too, I remember the impatience with which we awaited THE BIG BROADCAST of 1932 - and we could put that so-pleasant young man together with that beautiful voice...that Bing was a 'natural' is history; picture followed picture in a veritable cascade. And the songs just poured out...right up to the time he died.

Should one look back like that? Is it good? I don't know. All I do know is that when you listen to records of that period it is impossible NOT to... after all, we are all firmly agreed there was only one Bing...

WE HAVE HAD SOME WELCOME ADDITIONS TO BING'S RECORDING COLLEAGUES: TERRY WARDROPE, "Shalom", 44 Melloch Cres., Tillicoultry, Clackmannanshire, FK13 6JJ is able to add to our list of Crosby films published in the March issue: Terry writes -

May I point out a few omissions in the Bing filmography on page 13 of the last issue. In case no-one else has sent them in here they are:

THE SHINING FUTURE (1944) This was produced for Canada's VI Victory Loan. It was a two-reeler and released, I think, through Warner Bros.

THE ROAD TO GLORY (1944) This was produced by Warner Bros (a one-reeler) for the US Fifth War Loan. It was actually edited from THE SHINING FUTURE and had the same production cast and stars.

YOU CAN CHANGE THE WORLD (1951) This was a 20-minute short made for The Christophers and was directed by Leo McCarey of GOING MY WAY and BELLS OF ST. MARYS fame.

MILITARY POLICEMAN (US TITLE'OFF LIMITS): My sources credit Bing with a guest appearance in this Bob Hope movie made for Paramount in 1953. I saw it about 18 years ago and if memory serves me correctly Bing appeared on a TV set in a store window - much to Hope's feigned disgust - crooning merrily away.

CANCEL MY RESERVATION (1972) Bing appeared in a dream sequence with John Wayne in this MGM/EMI production of (I think) Bob Hope's last screen role.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT (1974) Bing, of course, was one of the many narrators of this star-studded MGM release.

I hope this is of interest. If so, my long-time hobby of compiling movie check lists will have been of some use after all.

Editor: Yes indeed - thanks, I'm sure Fred Reynolds will be interested in this as the main compiler of THE ROAD TO HOLLYWOOD.

1. Gary, Philip & Lindsay, Dennis (the middle two the twins); and Nathaniel and Harry.
2. Jimmy Durante in a radio show, reproduced on the album CLUB DURANT. Vaughn was a prominent bandleader/singer whose biggest hit - a sensational one - was GHOST RIDERS IN THE SKY around 1949.
3. Loyce (Lois) Whitman.
4. Singapore and Hong-Kong.
5. Buzz Blackwell - he was working on bridge-construction at the start.
6. ROAD TO MOROCCO.
7. TOP O' THE MORNING.
8. Old Masters, Vols. 1,2 and 3; Early 30's Vols 1 & 2; Bing Sings for Children, Beloved Hymns, Star-Spangled Banner and Man without a Country Bing and the Dixieland Bands; Rare Style; Among my Souvenirs; Tribute to Cole Porter (with other artists); Bing in Paris; Around the Christmas Tree (two numbers); Ichabod; Hollywood Sings, Vol 3 (The boys and girls) one number only.
9. MY HONEY'S LOVIN' ARMS; MINAH; and SHINE.
10. PAPER DOLL (a million-seller for the Mills Brothers).
11. Man without a Country.
12. Cirriribin - 1939; I'll Si-Si you in Bahia/The Live Oak Tree - 1952
13. MR. GALLAGHER & MR. SHEAN - surely one of his finest duets. MR. MEADOWLARK
14. Paul Whiteman, Buddy Cole, Victor Young, Camarata, Joe Bushkin.
15. HOLIDAY IN EUROPE (Bruns. LAT 8505)
16. Cremo Cigars, Chesterfield Cigarette, Kraft Cheese; Philco Radio; General Electric
17. Dick Haymes

ANSWERS TO THE CROSBY QUIZ ON PAGE 43: Printed upside down for the sake of those who read DING from back-to-front!

We reported in the March DING of the very thoughtful idea of our Good friend ENA HOOLEY, of Winchester, to purchase a small plot of land in a Devon charitable-rose-garden and of how the deeds were being sent to Mrs. Crosby. And this action seems to have really touched Kathryn for she wrote to the Mayor of Lynton and Lynmouth in the most sincere terms - tho' to be perfectly frank, I think her letter should more fairly have been addressed to Ena. It read as follows:

> Dear Mayor Jacobs,
>
> I know we have acknowledged the oak tree and rose garden from the office, but what a beautiful idea - that you would do this - and send us a deed that bit of beauty is done in memory of Bing.
>
> What a lovely idea! What a lovely gesture! What a lovely memory!
>
> Thank you so much, Sincerely, KATHRYN CROSBY
> Feb. 3, 1973

Clearly Kathryn was much impressed with this gesture; and, as usually happens where Ena Hooley is concerned, she has become a film friend of the Mayor! The idea has grown, too, for there is to be a memorial garden now in memory of Bing and in a letter to Ena, the Mayor says he hopes later this year there will be a formal ceremony, complete with press - and if they are lucky, with Mrs. Crosby in attendance. Many of our members are likely to visit Lynton and Lynmouth for their holidays and should they wish to make a visit the garden is known as the Middleham Gardens Trust.

THE ROSE GARDEN IN DEVON....

AH! IN MEMORY OF BING .....

by LES STREET
(Cardiff)

Adjusting to living without Bing is proving a difficult task; true, as we all stoutly maintain, we don't have to believe he is gone. We have his tremendous bounty of songs and films - not to mention memories - to draw upon. But he was with me throughout my life I feel and nothing can take away that greyness knowing he will not turn up on a radio/TV interview; send us a cheery tape greeting, make a new album....seeing those programmes such as the tribute to Bob Hope recently all brings a desolation which is never going to be any different.

And more and more I find myself looking backwards - to those long years gone by when every month there were new songs, new records to snap up; new movies to look forward to, each with a fantastic crop of wonderful songs. It will be realised I'm thinking mainly of the years covered by BING'S HOLLYWOOD - and earlier. Listening to one's Bing favourites is invariably a lengthy proceeding - happily! - but I have been thinking a lot about those years which saw Bing emerge as the greatest popular singer/entertainer of this century. And for that matter, any other century.

And some of the things that remain indelible.....favourite moments, favourite songs...

(1) SING, BING, SING and Bing serenading his lady love under her window with that beautiful song LOVABLE.

(2) WHERE THE BLUE OF THE NIGHT - my favourite scene was Bing in the sleeping-berth and pretending to switch on the radio so that the girl can hear him sing EVERY TIME MY HEART BEATS... wonderful that these two songs are now available in more than presentable form.

(3) WE'RE NOT DRESSING - a great cast and Bing in superb voice singing to the luscious Carole Lombard BECAUSE SHE REMINDS ME OF YOU.

(4) MISSISSIPPI. What a great film, certainly my all-time favourite and what a moment in that Southern estate when Bing joined in with the negro staff in SWANEE RIVER. A tremendous moment early in that fabulous career leaving an unforgettable memory.

(5) ANYTHING GOES was another great early film yet I recall the critics were not all that keen. But Bing and Ethel Merman were great - and the big scene for me was with Bing up in the crows-nest singing that delightful song SAILOR BEWARE with, of course, a fine "sailor" chorus and that great character Chill Wills.

(6) This 1938 classic, SING YOU SINNERS, had Bing looking a little overweight but as always singing in superb fashion and I recall especially the scene in the roadside cafe when Bing sang POCKET-FULL OF DREAMS. And this was the film, of course, which brought a fine performance from a little lad named Donald O'Connor.

(7) EAST SIDE OF HEAVEN with its lovely title song; Bing the singing cab-driver and the attractive Joan Blondell, with the ever-funny Mischa Auer and not forgetting the baby. My favourite song from this, however, was SING A SONG OF SUNBEAMS.

(8) Bing serenading the sarong-girl, equally attractive Dorothy Lamour with TOO ROMANTIC from the first of the classic "Road" series. Bing on the veranda singing this song another memorable scene.

(9) IF I HAD MY WAY - seems to me that whoever shared the film with Bing he immediately struck up a fine working rapport. It was certainly so in this lovely little film with Gloria Jean - and the title song has always been a favourite of mine.

(10) RHYTHM ON THE RIVER - the first of two films Bing made with Mary Martin had Bing "ghost-writing" songs - for Basil Rathbone and produced another Crosby winner in ONLY FOREVER.

(11) ROAD NO. 2 - TO ZAN ZAR with the boys nearly proving the main course for a bunch of headhunters - and Bing bringing on that magical orchestra by rippling his fingers thro' the water as, in a canoe, he sang to Dorothy IT'S ALWAYS YOU. Bing was aware that full-sized orchestra's suddenly appearing - in sound - in remote areas needed a bit of explanation!

(12) BIRTH OF THE BLUES - Mary Martin again and the film one of Bing's own favourites, playing a jazz pioneer with some of his old buddies like Harry Barris (on the bass) and Jack Teagarden. Memorable, also for the beautiful version of MELANCHOLY BABY

(13) HOLIDAY INN - nothing more to say about this is there; wonderful Berlin score including the song which made a big impact with me, BE CAREFUL, IT'S MY HEART. And there was Fred Astaire....

(14) ROAD TO MOROCCO - No. 3 and considered by many to be the best of them all; tremendous opening number itself almost a standard now; and the typical deep-toned Crosby song, MOONLIGHT BECOMES YOU. But I loved all these Road films...who didn't?

(15) DIXIE - Bing's first film in colour and also included Lambour but less Hope; Bing as the famous minstrel songwriter Don Emmett. A really super film and Bing shining as ever in SUNDAY, MONDAY OR ALWAYS.

(16) GOING MY WAY: Bing's Oscar-winning film and his introduction as the Rev. Father; what a highlight when, with the kids' choir, Bing sang SILENT NIGHT.

(17) HERE COME THE WAVES: the war-time bond-selling type of film - memorable for Bing acting a true-life part when to a screaming audience he sang the song he seemed to neglect for so long - OLD BLACK MAGIC. Among others, of course.

(18) BELLS OF ST. MARY'S - Father O'Malley again and for me, given second place to GOING MY WAY but still a lovely film. At the first time of seeing this (on release, of course) I thought AREN'T YOU GLAD YOU'RE YOU was my song but seeing it several times later, especially on TV I came around to the title song sung so impressively in such typical Bing fashion. Remember the last note?

(19) BLUE SKIES - with Fred Astaire again and another Berlin score. An irresistible teaming from three sides. Tremendous number of songs including YOU KEEP COMING BACK LIKE A SONG.

(20) ROAD TO UTOPIA - No. 4 and as crazy as ever scriptwise. WELCOME TO MY DREAMS was a lovely number from this film.

(21) WELCOME STRANGER - similar in plot perhaps to GOING MY WAY with Bing and Barry as doctors instead of priests. Great scene in this when Bing got up at a barn-dance and sang COUNTRY STYLE though my favourite number is MY HEART IS A HOBO.

(22) THE EMPEROR WALTZ - Bing in an Austrian setting and an unusual film, perhaps. Playing the part of a phonograph salesmen, of all things - and sang that beautiful song THE FRIENDLY MOUNTAINS.

(23) ROAD TO RIO - No. 5 of the series and well up to the zany style. M abiding memory is of Bing with Dottie seated behind the cinema screen on board ship and Bing singing BUT BEAUTIFUL to her.

(24) A YANKEE AT THE COURT OF KING ARTHUR - another "unusual" film with Bing back in the days of King Arthur, accompanied by William Bendix and Sir Cedric Hardwicke. I often wonder if everyone caught the full nuances of this film. But it had some good songs too - as always. WHEN YOU STUB YOUR TOE ON THE MOON was my favourite.

(25) TOP O' THE MORNING - Bing with Barry Fitzgerald again - what a fine actor the latter was? My memory is not too clear on this one but I believe it was set in Ireland itself and concerned with the theft of the Blarney Stone...TOP O' THE MORNING over the credits is a memory; and Bing sang WHEN IRISH EYES ARE SMILING, THE DONOVANS, KITTY OF COLRAINE, YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE and a couple of lovely duets with Ann Blyth: O TIS SWEET TO THINK and the song just mentioned, IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE.

(26) RIDING HIGH - Bing as a racehorse owner and for me, Bing at his best. What might be termed a "super" film and including CAMPTOWN RACES and that lovely comedy effort, THE HORSE TOLD ME.

(27) MR. MUSIC. Reputedly Bing didn't like this, or at least, the title. A songwriter again - and the big memory for me was when he returned to his old college and sang ONCE MORE THE BLUE AND WHITE.

(28) HERE COMES THE GROOM had Bing with the lovely - and shapely - Jane Wyman, and some kids again. A fine film I thought with Bing excellent - at his best, in fact. Favourite song YOUR OWN LITTLE HOUSE though of course, COOL COOL COOL OF THE EVENING with Jane was highly spectacular.

(29) JUST FOR YOU - Bing with Jane again - a slightly greying at the temples Bing with two teen-age children. Thoroughly enjoyable - what Bing film isn't? Memorable scene when Bing, as a show producer, gets on stage to do I'LL SI-SI YA IN HAHIA - just to show how it should be done!

(30) ROAD TO BALI - well known formula tho' for me, not quite up to the others. Contained an excellent opening song - and with Bob CHICAGO STYLE.

(31) LITTLE BOY LOST - it had to come perhaps. Bing in a serious role. Not quite harrowing, not quite Hamlet - but our man in sombre mood searching war-torn France for his young son. Only two songs but very good - THE MAGIC WINDOW was most touching. And Bing gave an excellent performance in this departure....but...

(32) WHITE CHRISTMAS - Bing with Danny Kaye and Rosemary Clooney, and another Berlin score. Light-hearted romp for Bing & Co. tho' he nearly came to grief with Rosie and misunderstood intentions! COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS a good memory.

(33) COUNTRY GIRL - and another sombre role, this time with Grace Kelly. I always thought Bing would have got another "Oscar" for this role as the star ruined by alcohol. Favourite song from this for me was LIVE & LEARN...

(34) ANYTHING GOES - and Bing teamed with Donald O'Connor (coincidentally, Donald was recently appearing at the London Palladium with Ginger Rogers and was also seen here on TV - not quite looking like the young fella who played with Bing!) again; a remake of the 1936 version. No where as good in my opinion, however....big number was A SECOND HAND TURBAN AND A CRYSTAL BALL.

(35) HIGH SOCIETY - probably one of the most successful films of all time with a great cast and Bing splendid plus some fine songs, my favourite being LITTLE ONE though TRUE LOVE brought Grace Kelly a gold disc - an otherwise unlikely event - by means of her duet with Bing.

(36) SAY ONE FOR ME - a priest once more with "cupid" tendencies! Oddly, not a distinguished song in this one - not one I can remember with clarity.

(37) MAN ON FIRE - a non-singing, sombre, role - thereby dissipating perhaps Bing's greatest asset, his singing voice. But Bing did record the title song which was "played over" the credits.

(38) HIGH TIME - a successful business man, Bing, who decides to complete the education he hadn't completed earlier. Slightly embarrassing and not a good film though I enjoyed it - and Bing seemed to, as well. An excellent song, however, SECOND TIME AROUND.

(39) ROAD TO HONG KONG - the British made last of the series showing that Bing and Bob - and indeed Dottie if she'd had a better chance - were as good as ever. Not a distinguished score and not much singing tho' TEAM WORK turned out pretty well.

(40) ROBIN AND THE SEVEN HOODS - a somewhat astonishing film seeing that Bing was a "guest" and outshone, in the process, his younger "rivals", e.g. Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis. I thought this a super film and loved the mission-hall number, MR. BOOZE.

(41) STAGECOACH - the mistaken remake of the classic 1939 Western and Bing's last film on the big screen. It was courting trouble to try and do this film again after it had swept the board in 1939 and after but Bing was great as the alcoholic doctor in the part which earned Thomas Mitchell an Oscar in the original version. Bing did very well indeed - again, non-singing.

These then are the filmic memories I can always conjure up, together with all the others....

Editor: Les Street has done a masterly thumb-nail job on Bing's major films and has, in the process, evoked an avalanche of memories for our members. Perhaps they would like to add to them? The film I would most like to see is the first THE BIG BROADCAST but we get not even a whisper of it and its fairly certain the BBC/ITV doesn't possess it. Yet the film now has considerable historic value. I wonder if it is shewn in the States? Bing, the Mills Brothers, the Boswell Sisters, Burns & Allen, The Street Singer, Donald Novis - what might be termed the first generation of the great radio stars. We probably saw Bing in KING OF JAZZ without knowing too much - it was THE BIG BROADCAST of 1932 we all awaited so eagerly.

MRS. R. CHESTER, 48 Milton Road, Hanwell, LONDON, W.7. may be able to help you with taping (cassettes). Write with S/E for lists....

BING THE SPORTSMAN - HOW IT WORKED OUT ON RECORD...

by
JOHN BIGNELL
(Wembley)

Bing's contribution to the sporting scene was considerable as we all know; it formed a sizeable portion of the BING CROSBY STORY on BBC radio for instance. And his output of songs on record, radio and in films showed his affinity to the sporting scene. Having completed the taping of the marvellous fifteen part series already referred to - a repeat of the 1973 marathon with updated inserts and an extra programme) I found myself with one half of a C120 cassette to fill. What better way to round off the series but with a compilation of all that I could find on a sporting theme? This is how it worked out:

1.	Team Work (with Bob Hope)	1961
2.	Once more we cheer the blue and white	1950
3.	Jamboree Jones	1950
4.	Take me out to the ball game	1959
5.	Straight down the middle	1957
6.	Tomorrow's my lucky day	1957
7.	The little pill on the little green hill	1941 **
8.	Where the turf meets the surf	1942 **
9.	The Horse told me	1949
10.	The Hukilau Song	1963
11.	Gone Fishin' (with Louis Armstrong)	1951
12.	Gone Fishin' (with Ted Rogers)	1976
13.	Step to the rear	1967
14.	Playball	1933 **
15.	Its not where you start its where you finish	1973

** Songs from film soundtracks, not commercially recorded.

This lively selection embraces sporting hobbies as far apart as baseball and fishing, together with football, horse-racing and more general titles like Team Work and Step to the Rear which can be adapted to practically any team or individual sport.

Which leads me to an interesting exercise I got involved in a few months ago. Les Gaylor had an enquiry from a Public Relations firm for a taping of STRAIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE which he passed to me and I was pleased to oblige. Curious to find out what use was made of this I made further enquiries and received the following reply:

Dear Mr. Bignell,

Kanzell Associates have forwarded your letter concerning the Crosby cassette. It was used at one of our client's sales conferences which had the theme of winning '78, Indiyidual presenters were nominated sporting type titles and the one which featured the (Crosby) cassette was called PAR FOR THE COURSE and involved a discussion about the sales performances during the year classified as Birdies and the like. I hope the information has been of some use to you.

Yours sincerely,
TINA HANCOCK: CONDOR PUBLIC RELATIONS LTD.

In passing, one wonders which records were used for the other sporting titles - perhaps the presenters were not aware that we could probably have provided a Bing Crosby recording to suit each of them.

Editor: Hmmm...perhaps even for the World Cup - ONCE MORE THE BLUE AND THE WHITE for as I write it looks as if Italy might well win it - I wonder if Bing ever saw a soccer match?

END OF ISSUE: FINAL REMINDER: MINI DISCOGRAPHY READY NOW £1.50POST PAID FROM REG BRISTO.